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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2016–2019



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1.

THE STRATEGY

1.1.

INTRODUCTION

Since 1997, the Federal Council has laid down its political intentions with regard to the implementation of sustainable development in Switzerland in a dedicated strategy. Since 2008, this strategy has been updated regularly as part of the four-year legislative cycle. In its resolution of 25 June 2011, the Federal Parliament instructed the Federal Council to revise the Sustainable Development Strategy for the 2015–19 legislative period.

This Sustainable Development Strategy 2016–19 sets out the Federal Council's policy priorities for sustainable development in the medium to long term. It also lists the action that the Confederation will take to implement this Strategy during the legislative period. In addition, the Strategy indicates the contribution that Switzerland will make to achieving the United Nations' global Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development ('2030 Agenda') during this period. The aim in the future is to align the Strategy as comprehensively as possible with the 2030 Agenda to ensure that Switzerland plays a full part in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) by 2030.

1.2.

STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE

Implementing sustainable development policy is a demanding, long-term process that necessitates close and well-coordinated cooperation between all levels of government and with partners from the private sector, civil society and science. For this reason, these actors have been more involved than previously in the strategy revision process. The aim was to draw up an action plan that had the broadest possible base of support, and thereby lay the foundations for efficient, well-coordinated implementation.

The actors concerned were involved as part of a stakeholder dialogue which ran from November 2014 to May 2015. Their interests, points of view and objectives with regard to sustainable development were registered and discussed. This process encompassed stakeholders from civil society, business, science, the cantons and communes, and representatives of the Federal Administration.

The outcomes of this stakeholder dialogue include proposals for a long-term vision of sustainable development in Switzerland, as well as for the targets which should be achieved by 2030. The Sustainable Development Goals set out in the new 2030 Agenda provided one of the points of reference for these targets. Another part of the process was the formulation of action that the Confederation might take in the 2016–19 period to achieve its medium-term targets. The outcomes of this dialogue were collated into a synthesis report which served as one of the bases for the present Strategy.

1.3.

FUNCTION OF THE STRATEGY; TARGET GROUP

The Federal Council regards sustainable development as a 'regulative idea', in other words a core principle. It should be regarded not as an isolated element of sectoral policy, but as a requirement that must be incorporated into all policy areas. This view is supported by the great breadth of topics encompassed by the Sustainable Development Strategy. Indeed, it covers the majority of the state's activities.

The aim of the Strategy is to ensure that Switzerland has a coherent sustainable development policy at Confederation level. Its primary function is therefore to coordinate the activities of the Confederation, while also providing a reference framework for other actors. Sectoral policies are increasingly being aligned with the principles of sustainable development by setting points of focus and by shifting emphasis. This allows potentially conflicting aims between individual policy areas to be identified and resolved where possible. It also promotes the use of synergies. The federal agencies responsible for individual domains assume responsibility for fleshing out the action that is to be taken, as well as for coordinating and executing it. In their planning and internal processes, they must respect the principles of sustainable development. Action on sustainable development is funded via the regular budget processes of the federal agencies concerned.

The principles laid down in the Federal Council guidelines (see Section 3.2) provide a point of reference for the implementation of sustainable development in sectoral policies. These guidelines are joined in this new Strategy by a target framework, structured by topic, which comprises the Confederation's long-term vision and specific targets up to 2030. The key points of these targets are already based on the 2030 Agenda's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) (see Section 2.2.2) and should be fully aligned with these in the future (see Section 8.1.4). These visions and targets define the priority issues on which action is needed in Switzerland. The Federal Council will focus more closely on these areas in the future. They are intended to provide a medium to long-term reference point for both the Confederation and all other actors. In this way, the Sustainable Development Strategy will influence other actors at cantonal and commune level, in business and in civil society who also base their actions on the target framework defined by the Federal Council. Furthermore, the Sustainable Development Strategy provides a tool for communicating with national and international stakeholders.

In the implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy, particular importance is attached to closer coordination between domestic and foreign policy. For this reason, the Strategy focuses more closely on Switzerland's international engagement (see Section 5). Moreover, as part of its international cooperation activities, Switzerland supports partner countries with the formulation and implementation of coherent policies, and participates in international bodies and processes to bring about a well-coordinated policy on sustainability that is as free as possible of contradiction.

Finally, the Strategy describes the most important instruments and provisions which come into play in achieving sustainable development at Confederation level.



2.

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORKS

2.1.

NATIONAL FRAMEWORKS

2.1.1.

Sustainable development as a constitutional mandate

Sustainable development is enshrined in the new Federal Constitution of 1999 in a number of places. Article 2 describes the primary purpose of the Confederation, which is to promote common welfare, sustainable development, internal cohesion and cultural diversity (para. 2). It is also committed to the long-term preservation of natural resources and to a just and peaceful international order (para. 4). Under Article 73, the Confederation and the cantons are bound by a mandate that requires public-sector bodies at all levels to ensure “a balanced and sustainable relationship between nature and its capacity to renew itself, and the demands placed on it by the population”. Article 54, meanwhile, specifies Switzerland’s foreign policy objectives, which reflect important elements of sustainable development: encouraging welfare, helping to alleviate poverty and need in the world, promoting respect for human rights and democracy, the peaceful co-existence of peoples, and the conservation of natural resources.

2.1.2.

Legislative planning

Every four years, the Federal Council issues a Dispatch setting out its planned programme of legislation for the coming period. This is based on the ‘Outlook 2030’ status and context analysis which was produced by the Forward Planning Staff of the Federal Administration. Legislative planning and the Sustainable Development Strategy are closely linked from both the content and procedural perspectives. Both strategic planning processes cover a very wide range of topics, but differ in terms of focus and time horizon. While legislative planning describes the principal legislative projects in all policy areas for the duration of one legislative period, the Sustainable Development Strategy is geared to a long time horizon and also contains key strategic action on the implementation of currently applicable law.

To link the content and procedures of both planning processes even more closely, the Federal Council decided on 4 November 2009 to integrate the Sustainable Development Strategy into its legislative planning programme, thus ensuring optimum coordination between the two. For this reason, an abridged version of the Sustainable Development Strategy is incorporated into the main legislative planning document and set out in its appendix.

2.2.

INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORKS

2.2.1.

UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20)

At the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) of June 2012, the international community reaffirmed that global challenges of increasing scale can be managed only by coordinated efforts on behalf of the world's nations. It also agreed to draw up new, generally understandable and measurable targets for sustainable development by 2030, modelled on the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) which expired at the end of 2015. It was subsequently decided to combine the processes for updating the MDG and drafting the SDG.

In addition, in the concluding document adopted by the Conference, 'The Future We Want', the international community again recognised the importance of national sustainability strategies, and their signpost function in decision-making and realising sustainable development at all levels. In the document, states were called upon to strengthen national and sub-national institutions, bodies and processes to ensure coordination and coherence on sustainable development issues. Furthermore, the Conference reconfirmed the resolutions passed at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (the 'Earth Summit') in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, and at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg. A 'green economy based on sustainable development and poverty eradication' was also adopted into the highest political agenda, and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) was bolstered thanks to universal membership.

2.2.2.

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Based on the Rio+20 resolution, heads of state and government adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (the 2030 Agenda) at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit on 25 September 2015. It represents an ambitious transformative agenda for the international community, while at the same time identifying the greatest challenges facing the world. The Agenda comprises a preamble, a declaration, 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) (see below), and 169 targets, means of implementation and a global partnership, as well as a follow-up and review mechanism for the implementation of the SDG.

The 17 SDG, with their related targets, form the core of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. They are valid for all countries, but are to be pursued and amended in accordance with individual national circumstances and priorities. They are measured and checked using a set of indicators. The outcomes of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Addis Ababa in July 2015, form another integral part of the 2030 Agenda.

By adopting the 2030 Agenda, all states declared their willingness to work together to achieve the set SDG by 2030, to adopt them as a reference framework for their national sustainability strategies, and to make an appropriate contribution to their implementation at national and international level. Reports on the status of implementation will be produced regularly as part of the international review mechanism.

The UN is supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda with all of its various organisations and mechanisms. The newly founded High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), which reports to the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), has a particularly important role to play in supporting and monitoring implementation work.

2.2.3.

Challenges for Switzerland

The 2030 Agenda is not legally binding, but provides an important reference framework for Switzerland. The Federal Council takes it very seriously, and is committed on both the national and international levels to the Agenda's implementation. One of the ways in which this will happen at national level is through the specific targets defined in this Sustainable Development Strategy, which is based on the SDG and will help to achieve them. Switzerland will also report regularly to

the UN on its progress with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

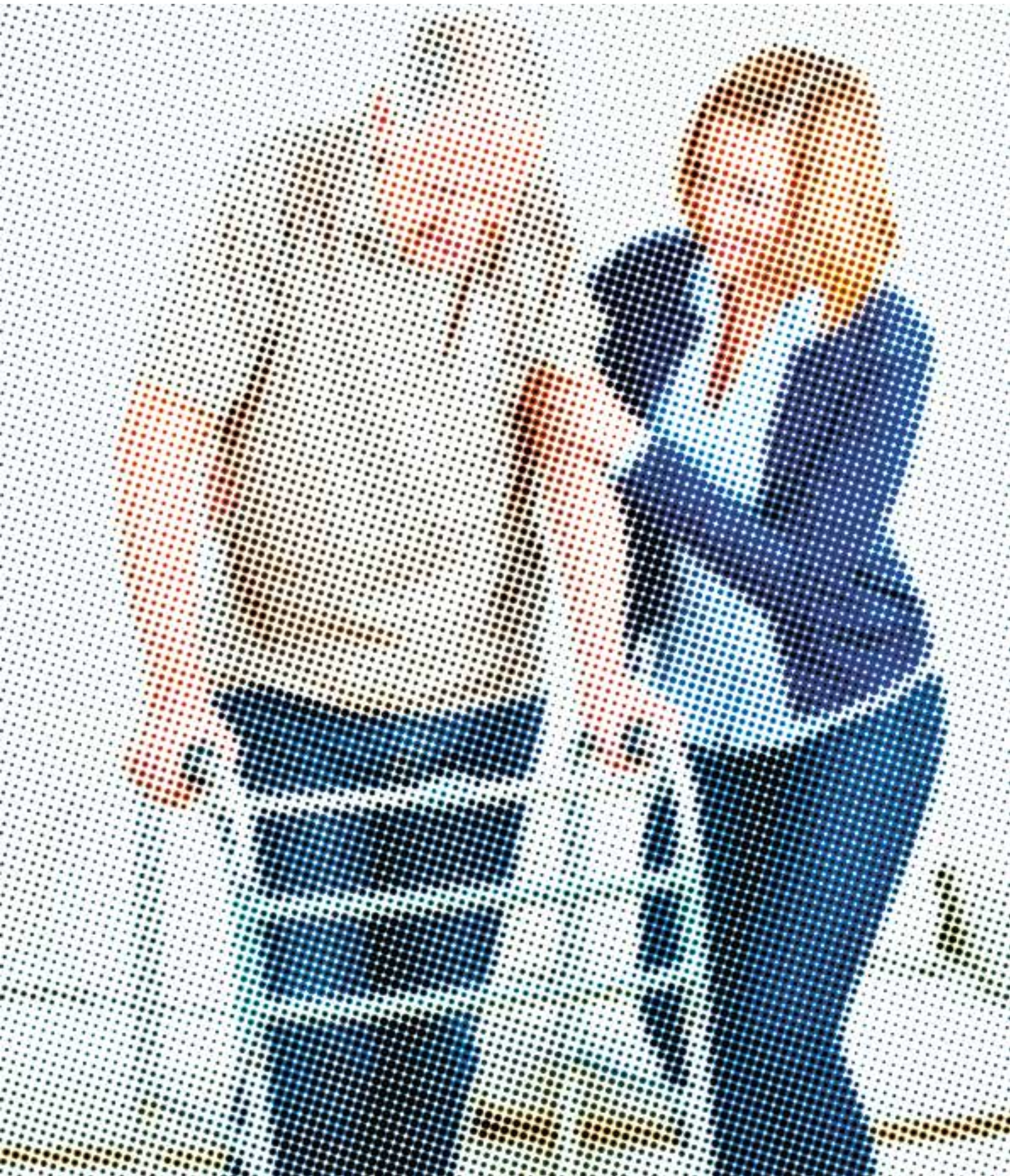
The aim in the future is to align the Strategy as comprehensively as possible with the 2030 Agenda to secure Switzerland's contribution to achieving the SDG by 2030. Here, it is important that the Confederation, the cantons and communes work closely with civil society and the private and scientific sectors. There must also be closer coordination between implementation at the national and international levels, and appropriate monitoring and review mechanisms must be created which, where possible, also include private-sector action (see Section 8.1.4). Communicating the results will also be very important.

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) under the 2030 Agenda.

1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere
2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation
10. Reduce inequality within and among countries
11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts*
14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development

* Acknowledging that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the primary international intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN SWITZERLAND

3.1.

DEFINITION

The Federal Council applies the broad definition of sustainable development drawn up in 1987 by the World Commission on Environment and Development for the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro. It is known as the 'Brundtland Definition' after the Commission's chair, Gro Harlem Brundtland. According to this definition, development is sustainable if it guarantees that the needs of present generations can be met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Two complementary aspects are of key importance here: the idea that there are limits to what global ecosystems can bear, and the priority that must be given to satisfying essential needs, particularly those of the poorest sections of society. This definition has an ethical foundation. It expresses the belief that a generation's empowerment largely to do as it pleases with regard to the future should be replaced by a sense of responsibility toward the future, rooted in a just and fair division of resources between generations (INTERgenerational solidarity) and regions of the world (INTRAGenerational solidarity). The basis of human life should be secured on just and fair terms for all.

3.2.

FEDERAL COUNCIL GUIDELINES

The Sustainable Development Strategy provides an over-arching reference framework for the interpretation of 'sustainable development' as a concept and, specifically, how it is to be translated into action in the various policy areas at Confederation level.

The guidelines on sustainability policy set out the Federal Council's understanding of sustainable development, and explain how it intends to integrate it into all of the Confederation's sectoral policies. They are based on the Federal Constitution (see Section 2.1.1) and on key reference documents issued by the United Nations and other international organisations. The following guidelines apply to sustainable development policy. They are described in detail in the Sustainable Development Strategy 2008–11 and remain valid.

1. Take responsibility for the future: According to the principle of common, yet divided responsibility, with their particular accountability for past and present development processes and their greater financial and technical resources, the highly developed industrialised countries must lead the way. Responsibility for the future means promoting the principles of prevention, 'producer pays' and liability as the essential framework for sustainable, long-term economic, environmental and social action at all levels.

2. Balanced consideration of the three target dimensions of sustainable development:

When developing federal policy, equal account must be taken of the three complementary target dimensions of 'economic efficiency', 'social solidarity' and 'environmental responsibility'. The 'capital stock' model provides an additional basis for this. A limited degree of substitution is possible between the different capital stocks, although certain limiting criteria such as minimum social, economic and environmental requirements must be observed. This is a halfway house between the concepts of strong and weak sustainability.

3. Incorporate sustainable development into all areas of policy:

Sustainable development is not a further sectoral policy in itself, but an over-arching regulatory concept to which all areas of policy are to be aligned. According to the Federal Constitution, sustainable development is a government objective, and thus a mandate that is binding on all state authorities. It must be integrated from the start in the existing planning and control processes of the Federal Council, the Departments and federal government agencies.

4. Improve coherence and coordination between policy areas:

The various sectoral policies must form a coherent whole, on both the domestic and foreign policy fronts. Important policy decisions must be based on proposals whose economic, social and environmental impacts are evaluated transparently at an early stage in order to optimise state action. Here, any conflicts with regard to content must be disclosed, and the way in which interests have been considered must be shown transparently.

5. Forge sustainable development partnerships:

Many of the problems our country faces can be resolved constructively only by all three levels of government working closely together. Switzerland's structure as a federal state means that cantonal and municipal administrations have far-reaching power and influence in many areas of relevance to sustainability. In the future, civil society and the private sector are also to be involved as comprehensively as possible in shaping and implementing sustainable development policy.



4.

ACTION PLAN

The Federal Council takes a holistic approach to putting its policy into effect (see Section 3.2). The Council believes it important to integrate the principles of sustainable development into all of the Confederation's sectoral policies. The Action Plan presented here is intended to set specific areas of emphasis. They have been determined by the Federal Council in those priority policy areas in which it identifies the greatest need for action. These priorities are based on the general focus areas of federal government policy overall, on the outcomes of stakeholder dialogue (see Section 1.2) and the new objectives determined by the 2030 Agenda (see Section 2.2.2).

the Johannesburg declaration on sustainable development, 'The future we want' and the 2030 Agenda. The vision is not binding, but rather serves as a signpost for the direction in which Switzerland should continue to develop on important issues. As such, it is key to coordination between policy areas and thus to promoting coherent policy.

Medium-term challenges

The 2030 Agenda provides a framework for the challenges that the international community believes all countries must overcome in a way appropriate to their particular circumstances. Derived from this, the present document describes the most significant medium-term challenges for Switzerland.

4.1.

STRUCTURE OF THE ACTION PLAN

The Action Plan is structured into nine themed action areas in the priority policy fields for sustainable development. Each of these is composed of a long-term vision for Switzerland, the current medium-term challenges, the Federal Council goals that are derived from these challenges, which are to be met by 2030, and the action that the Federal Council will take during the 2015–19 legislative period.

A vision as a long-term scenario

The vision represents a long-term scenario for a sustainable Switzerland. It is not bound to a particular time horizon, and simply describes the target ideal state. This draws on internationally valid framework documents, such as Agenda 21,

Goals up to 2030

The goals represent the Federal Council's priorities for sustainable development in Switzerland up to 2030. They reflect the content of the vision, and set out in greater detail the need for action identified in the challenges. The goals should be seen as non-legally-binding targets which still allow the necessary scope for implementation.

As part of the regular strategy review cycle, the goals may be amended in line with changing circumstances, as well as national and international priorities. This is particularly relevant in view of their continued relationship to the 2030 Agenda, although the ultimate objective is to align the Swiss goals comprehensively with the SDG.

Action towards achieving the goals

The measures set out in the Action Plan describe selected, high-priority domestic policy activities that the Federal Council will undertake during the current legislative period to

achieve its goals for 2030, or to promote progress towards these goals. The Action Plan also lists selected foreign policy activities, where these are relevant to the achievement of the goals in Switzerland. The listed measures are not intended to be exhaustive. Rather, they provide points of focus in the individual policy areas. They are described in greater detail in a regularly updated Action Table that is published on the ARE website (www.are.admin.ch/sne).

Development indicators

The general trend in the themed action areas is tracked by the MONET system of indicators for sustainable development (see Section 7.1). Generally speaking, these indicators refer to long-term visions. They have been selected because they are the best possible reflection of specific objectives in each action area.

4.2.

ACTION AREAS

The Action Plan is structured into nine action areas, each covering a specific topic which is of central importance to the sustainable development of Switzerland. It also sets out the measures that will be instituted by the Federal Council in the current legislative period.

4.2.1.

Action area 1 – Consumption and production

Long-term vision

The precautionary and producer pays principle is applied consistently by government and business both nationally and internationally. In both production and service provision, businesses fulfil their social responsibility at home and abroad, including respect for human rights and compliance with social standards. Environmental impacts are kept low along the entire value chain, and natural resources are used sparingly.

Basic supplies of essential goods and services are guaranteed for the entire population in the long term. Both consumer and capital goods are produced in a resource-efficient, socially and environmentally-friendly way, with no impact on health. Consumer durables are designed to be low-consumption, long-lasting, easy to repair and recyclable. Goods are used in a cost-effective way and, once used, are recycled where this makes sense. There is transparency about their characteristics and external effects along the value chain and throughout their life cycle.

Individuals are aware of the impact of their actions and consumption on the social and natural environment. An environmentally and resource-friendly, healthy lifestyle is attractive and easy to achieve.

Key medium-term challenges up to 2030

As part of the 2030 Agenda, the international community identified the following goal (SDG):

- Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

This poses the following key challenges for Switzerland:

- The environmental impact of consumption in Switzerland exceeds the level that the natural environment can sustainably bear. Indeed, Switzerland already transgresses planetary tolerance limits in a variety of areas. Although certain improvements in resource-efficiency are discernible, in key areas the only result of this to date has been that the environmental burden has risen more slowly than economic output. In particular, rising consumption continues to generate growing ecological pressures, especially abroad. In addition to their environmental impacts, patterns of production and consumption exert significant influence on working conditions around the world, respect for human rights, fair competition, consideration for consumers' interests, and on the fight against corruption. The manufacture and consumption of goods (products, services and buildings) must therefore be directed in such a way that they satisfy high economic, environmental and social standards for their entire life cycles. Corporate social responsibility (CSR) is extremely important in this – be it by developing business strategies that are founded on sustainability, by designing products and production processes in the same way, or by adopting standards and norms for environmentally and socially responsible action. In the future, CSR must be strengthened still further, and the public sector must also become a better role model in this respect. What is needed is a well-coordinated blend of government action and private-sector activity.

- Furthermore, consumers can make an important contribution to sustainable development through their demand behaviours. Information about the environmental burden and social impacts of individual products must therefore be improved,

and targeted action taken to broaden the supply of more environmentally friendly and more socially responsible consumer goods. Another important element of this is raising consumers' awareness and knowledge levels and thereby enabling them not only to make more sustainable purchasing decisions, but also to use their purchases in a way that minimises resource consumption.

- No other country in Europe produces as much urban waste as Switzerland. The volume of this waste is to be reduced through preventive action at the production, transport, distribution and consumption stages. In addition to the efficient use and recycling of consumer and capital goods, a further major challenge is to factor not just a product's manufacture and use into the design stage but also its disposal when it is no longer wanted. Conserving non-renewable resources (such as rare earths), making efficient use of renewable resources and closing materials cycles (e.g. phosphate) are just three of the most urgent priorities here.

- A third of the environmental impact produced by Switzerland at home and abroad is attributable to our diet. The resource-efficient, environmentally friendly production of foodstuffs and the prevention of food waste are thus particularly important.

Federal Council goals up to 2030, and action towards their achievement between 2016 and 2019

Goal 1.1

Wherever they operate, companies fulfil their social responsibility in Switzerland and abroad.

Federal Council action to achieve this goal: Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is industry's contribution to sustainable development, while the state has a complementary part to play. In its Corporate Social Responsibility¹ position paper, the Confederation calls upon businesses to display responsible management in four strategic directions. These are: input into the CSR framework, awareness-raising and support for Swiss companies, supporting CSR in developing and transition countries, and promoting transparency. Where international respect for human rights is concerned, a national action plan to implement the United Nations' Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights² is currently at the draft stage. The Confederation is committed to putting these Guiding Principles into effect in a variety of sectors and initiatives at both national and international level. Its efforts focus in particular on the conduct by companies of human rights due diligence assessments and on the implementation of the requisite measures, as well as on access to reparations. Where commodity extraction and trading are concerned, the implementation of the recommendations contained in the background report on commodities³ will help companies to fulfil their corporate responsibilities in this area in Switzerland and abroad.

Goal 1.2

Companies achieve maximum resource-efficiency by optimising the design of their production processes and products.

Federal Council action to achieve this goal: As part of work to implement its green economy action plan⁴, the Confederation aims to work with the business sector to identify effective criteria from established sustainability standards and initiatives in order to achieve a clear, measurable reduction in environmental impact through voluntary measures with regard to the relevant raw materials and products. It also supports the Reffnet.ch network for a resource-efficient Switzerland⁵. Reffnet offers companies simple access to analysis of potential materials, energy and cost savings, and highlights action which improves resource-efficiency.

Flagship projects at and within manufacturing companies and sectors should be identified and publicised. One point of emphasis here is ecodesign – an approach which aims to improve product design in a way which reduces environmental impact at all stages of the product life cycle. This approach should be encouraged further by developing specialist skills⁴.

Goal 1.3

Use is made of the economic and technical potential for closing materials cycles.

Federal Council action to achieve this goal: Closing materials cycles means exploiting the potential of waste that is currently disposed of and recycling it for reuse as productive raw materials. The Confederation is therefore involved in creating the foundations and frameworks that enable political and business decisions to be taken first and foremost on the basis of a holistic view of material and product life cycles⁴. The points of focus are waste prevention, the recycling of waste and structural elements from the construction industry, and metals recycling, specifically the possibility of reclaiming rare metals used for technical applications. In addition to the creation of foundations and a coordinating framework, the revision of the Ordinance on the Prevention and Disposal of Waste⁶ in particular will support the closure of materials cycles, for example for metals from incineration residue, biogenic waste, and the reclamation of phosphorus from sewage sludge and construction waste. This also includes the elimination of persistent organic pollutants and the separation of toxic heavy metals from materials cycles. Furthermore, the Confederation supports the 'Resource Dialogue 2030'⁷, a forum for dialogue between government, business and society aimed at transforming today's throwaway economy into a resource-based economy.

Goal 1.4

Consumers have the information they need to enable them to make their purchase decisions on the basis of quality, safety and health considerations, and in the knowledge of environmental and social impacts.

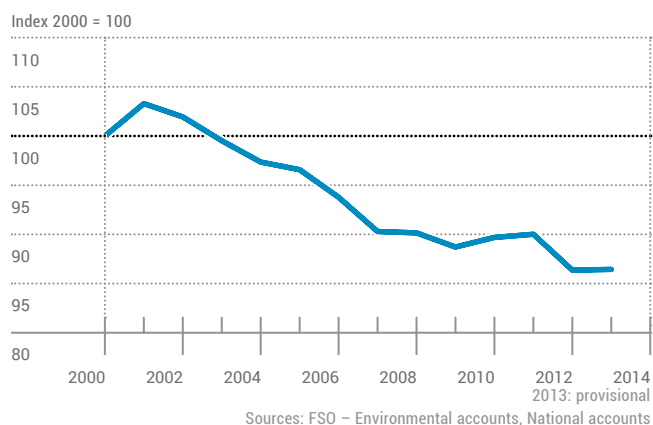
Federal Council action to achieve this goal: A key element in promoting sustainable patterns of consumption is information for consumers on the quality, safety and health aspects of the products on offer, as well as their impacts on the environment and society. The Confederation helps to raise consumer awareness and knowledge levels by supporting consumer organisations⁸ and providing information such as the overview of product labels⁴. As part of its roles as a market monitor and regulator, it is also committed to ensuring information and protection for consumers in sectors such as

wood and chemicals, as well as motor vehicles. Furthermore, the Energy Label⁹ provides an effective means of informing consumers about the energy-related properties of electrical and IT equipment, cars, windows and other products.

Information on product characteristics is still not sufficiently transparent enough. The Confederation is thus in the process of drawing up relevant methodological guidelines for evaluating the environmental impact of products and raw materials throughout their life cycle⁴. At the international level, Switzerland is also working to harmonise the different evaluation methods and databases.

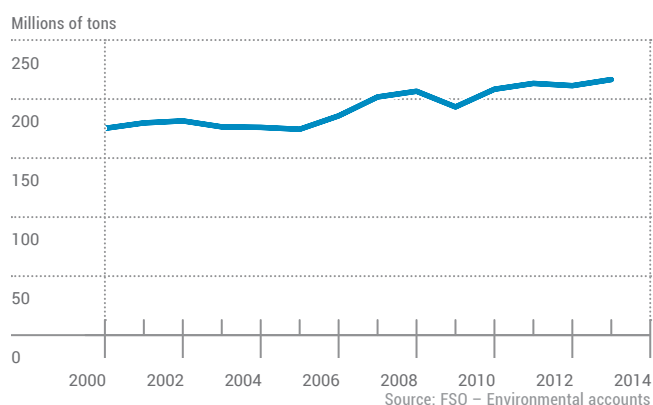
MATERIALS INTENSITY

Raw material consumption (RMC) to real Gross Domestic Product (with reference year 2005) ratio



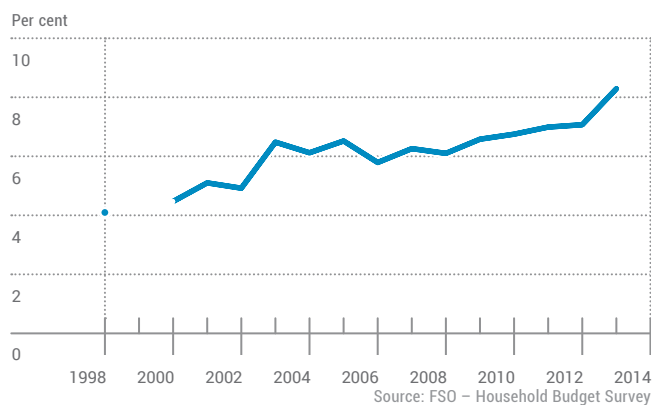
MATERIALS FOOTPRINT OF IMPORTS

Import in raw material equivalents (consideration of all materials used during the production processes and transport of goods and services until they cross the border)



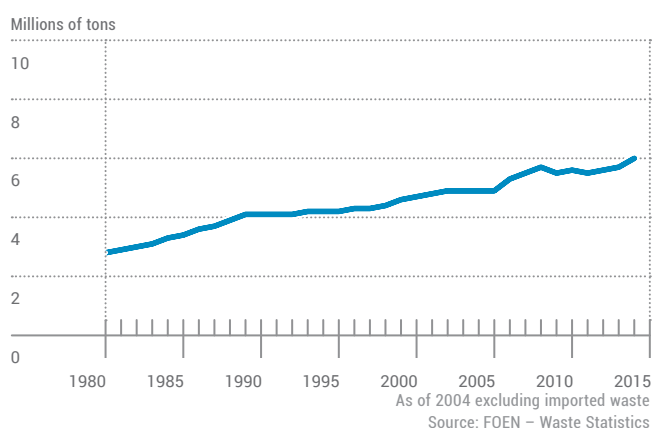
CONSUMPTION OF ORGANIC PRODUCTS

Share of expenditure on organic products in total household expenditure on food and drink (private households)



TOTAL MUNICIPAL WASTE PRODUCED

Total amount of household waste and waste of similar composition from industry and commerce, including separately collected waste



Goal 1.5

Private consumption helps to reduce resource use and the associated environmental impact.

Federal Council action to achieve this goal: In the interests of securing the nation's long-term welfare, the Confederation is committed to extending environmentally friendly, resource-efficient patterns of consumption⁴. Information and awareness-raising campaigns encourage resource-friendly purchase and usage decisions. This should help the various actors to be aware of the primary environmental impacts of their purchases, as well as how to reduce them. Furthermore, studies are being conducted to identify priority action areas and the appropriate means of tackling them. To reduce food waste, the Confederation will continue to engage in targeted awareness-raising campaigns. It will also examine what action can empower professionals in the field to play their specific part. In addition, a comprehensive data-gathering programme is intended to improve fundamental data on food waste volumes in Switzerland.

4.2.2.

Action area 2 – Urban development, mobility and infrastructure

Long-term vision

Agglomerations, urban and rural spaces, as well as mountain areas, all make the most of their particular development opportunities in cross-border partnerships. Agricultural land is largely preserved, and the countryside is managed with care in a way which maintains regional characteristics.

Transport systems and urban growth are coordinated, while the different modes of transport form a complete and complementary network. The entire transport system is funded for the long term according to a fair, usage-based system, and is sustainable. Multifunctional nodes link work, leisure, homes and retail or catering outlets, thereby ensuring short journeys and moderating traffic volumes.

Population growth and job creation are concentrated on areas that have already been developed. Settlements are characterised by a high quality of life and environment, security and architecture, and listed buildings and monuments are preserved. Recreation areas and natural open

spaces form an attractive network for leisure activities, exploring nature, exercise and sport, and support social activities and ecological connectivity.

The renovation and continued development of buildings and infrastructures take their entire life cycle into account. Both construction and operation are economical, resource-efficient and socially acceptable, and take proper, conscious account of risks and natural hazards.

Key medium-term challenges up to 2030

As part of the 2030 Agenda, the international community identified the following goals (SDG):

- Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation
- Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

This poses the following key challenges for Switzerland:

- Switzerland has progressively been losing good agricultural land for decades now, and the quality of the landscape remains under considerable pressure owing to fragmentation and urban sprawl. This impacts negatively on biodiversity, the capacity of natural resources to renew themselves, on quality of life, and on opportunities for recreation, leisure activities and tourism. The loss of agricultural land also reduces the area available for land-dependent food production. Greater efforts must be made to use land economically and to guide urban development even more strictly inwards. Inward development should be conceived in a way which preserves or increases the appeal of urban areas, while offering a suitable framework of open spaces and infrastructures to meet residents' needs. Furthermore, spatial planning must factor in the risks posed by natural and other relevant hazards, and take opportunities to create resilient settlements and infrastructures.

- In addition to the need for action on the planning front, urban areas' high demand for energy and resources is a major challenge. It has been possible to create important foundations and instruments for the sustainable construction of buildings and infrastructures, but these must be developed further, and become common practice for both new-builds and the existing stock. Improvements in eco-efficiency have also been achieved in the transport sector, but we have not yet seen any turnaround in energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. In addition to ensuring that new and efficient technologies gain ground on the market, the challenge here is to avoid unnecessary traffic while guaranteeing a basic level of safe and reliable mobility for all sections of the population in all parts of the country.

Federal Council goals up to 2030, and action towards their achievement between 2016 and 2019

Goal 2.1

Spatial development is polycentric, characterised by a strong network of towns and cities. Regional strengths are exploited.

Federal Council action to achieve this goal: The Spatial Strategy for Switzerland¹⁰ sets out the vision for sustainable spatial development that is held in common by all three levels of government. It encourages collaboration at supra-regional 'action space' level, and across the boundaries that traditionally exist between the Confederation, cantons and communes, i.e. the 'functional space' approach. Areas of emphasis include concentrating settlement growth in urban and rural centres (polycentric spatial development), creating networks between these centres, and promoting regional strengths. The Confederation is committed to achieving these objectives through instruments including its agglomeration policy for 2016 and beyond¹¹, its agglomeration programmes transport and settlement¹² and its policy on rural and mountain areas¹³.

Mountain and rural areas do not benefit from growth in the Swiss economy to the same extent as the agglomerations. To manage their structural change and to maintain or increase their competitiveness, these regions are supported by both the Confederation's policy on rural and mountain areas¹³ and its New Regional Policy¹⁴ (NRP). In addition, regions whose habitats and landscapes are of a particular quality are afforded financial aid and the 'Parks' label¹⁵ to help them set up and operate parks of national importance.

Goal 2.2

Urban sprawl is curbed, and settlement growth is restricted to the planned development areas and corridors. Agricultural land and open spaces are largely protected from further development.

Federal Council action to achieve this goal: In urban spaces, efforts are made to plan settlements, the landscape and transport in a coordinated and forward-looking way. This is supported by the agglomeration programmes transport and settlement¹² which function as long-term planning instruments that not only take a holistic approach but also extend to cooperation with Switzerland's neighbours. In addition to the transport aspects, the key aims of these programmes are to promote inward urban development and to reduce environmental impact and resource consumption. The sectoral plan for transport¹⁶, meanwhile, lays down the essential principles for coordinating the transport infrastructure with spatial development, as well as for coordination between the different modes of transport.

Quantitative soil conservation and the long-term preservation of suitable agricultural land are pursued under the sectoral plan for crop rotation areas¹⁷, which is to be revised and strengthened in the next few years. As part of an integrated soil policy, soil protection is to be coordinated more effectively by means of a soil strategy¹⁸. This will take a multifunctional approach to balancing the need to both protect and use the soil, and thus ensure that the available land area is best shared according to the differing interests.

Goal 2.3

New housing is created by means of high-quality inward development. There are sufficient open spaces that are geared to residents' needs.

Federal Council action to achieve this goal: Encouraging inward urban development is one of the Confederation's main priorities. However, it puts pressure on the open spaces that currently exist in Switzerland's urban landscape. Inward development does not mean creating as much usable space as possible per unit of developed area. Rather, it means guiding construction and development in urban areas in a way which respects the open spaces and particular identity of that location, and thereby creates more residential units – not larger homes per capita – as well as a greater quality of life. The Confederation's housing research programme¹⁹ addresses these and other current issues, such as the efficient use of living space, to deliver solutions to today's challenges. The sustainable spatial planning pilot scheme for 2014–18²⁰ supports innovative projects which engage simultaneously in high-quality inward urban development and the development of open spaces within agglomerations.

There is a close correlation between inward urban development and travel patterns, as each determines the other. In their efforts to bring about sustainable mobility and lower traffic volumes in residential developments, for example, planners, developers and administrations can call on the support of a number of mobility management tools²¹.

Goal 2.4

Both underground and overground structures are planned, built, operated and continuously developed in accordance with recognised standards of sustainability. They represent a solution that is optimised throughout the structure's life cycle.

Federal Council action to achieve this goal: The Confederation encourages networking and coordination between actors in the interests of targeted support for a variety of sustainable construction-related activities. To this end, it supports the NNBS sustainable construction network for Switzerland²² as well as its SNBS standard for sustainable construction in Switzerland and the corresponding quality label. It also helps

to strengthen coordination between public and private developers²³ and thus promotes a common understanding of what sustainability means in the construction sector. In addition to the existing incentives for energy-efficient construction, the Confederation is also looking into creating promotion programmes for further aspects of sustainable development.

The Confederation manages its real estate portfolio in compliance with sustainable development criteria, and purchases building services and buildings which satisfy very high economic, environmental and social requirements throughout their life cycles. This approach is laid down in the Ordinance on Federal Real Estate Management and Logistics (REMFLÖ)²⁴ and translated into a concrete programme of sustainable property management via the directives issued by the Federal Department of Finance FDF. Via the eco-bau platform for life cycle assessments in the construction sector²⁵ the Confederation supports the standardised, recognised evaluation of the ecological properties of building products and buildings. In addition, within the scope of its authority it also endeavours to influence standards and regulations in the construction sector. To optimise its road and rail infrastructure projects it conducts sustainability assessments of its major undertakings.

A possible sustainable construction strategy for Switzerland is under consideration as a reference concept to promote sustainability at the interfaces between building construction, civil engineering infrastructure construction and settlement planning.

Goal 2.5

As settlements grow, architectural heritage is preserved as far as possible, and the standards applied to new or refurbished buildings is high.

Federal Council action to achieve this goal: In the Dispatch on Funding for Culture Promotion 2016–20²⁶ ('Culture Dispatch'), the Confederation commits to appropriate consideration for concerns relating to archaeology, the preservation of monuments, and protection for local character. The 'building culture' strategy²⁷ embodied in the Dispatch is intended to coordinate settlement growth and aspects of architectural and building standards more closely in future.

Goal 2.6

The necessary infrastructures and spaces to meet sport and exercise needs are available both within and outside urban areas.

Federal Council action to achieve this goal: Sport and exercise are major contributors to health, an active lifestyle and better quality of life, and also have a positive effect on social cohesion and integration. The Confederation's recreational sports concept²⁸ is therefore aimed at fostering cooperation

between a variety of actors and at ensuring recognition of the importance of making infrastructure and space available for exercise and sport in high-density urban areas. Competitive sport is also an important element in the development of sport overall. This, too, requires suitable infrastructures. The Confederation's competitive sports concept²⁹ thus recommends that the cantons provide the necessary sports facilities in future.

Goal 2.7

Travel needs are satisfied by an efficient, economical and environmentally friendly system that is networked across different modes of transport and operates at optimum occupancy levels.

Federal Council action to achieve this goal: Passenger and freight traffic in Switzerland has increased markedly in recent decades. This means that passenger transport capacity limits are increasingly tested at peak times. As a usage-based charge which influences demand for private transport and public passenger transport, mobility pricing³⁰ offers a targeted means of responding to these challenges. It also allows external costs that are generated by transport, such as emissions and noise, to be factored into the price. The legal foundations for various model options are currently being drafted with a view to the possible introduction of mobility pricing.

Increasing the proportion of total traffic accounted for by non-motorised transport is a major factor in managing current and future travel needs as efficiently and ecologically as possible, both as an independent means of transport and in combination with other forms ('combined mobility'). The action plan for non-motorised transport³¹ will improve the operating conditions for these types of travel options in order to ensure a safe, easily accessible and attractive transport network.

Where freight transport is concerned, the capacity-related Heavy Vehicle Fee (HVF)³² has proven to be an effective means of shifting freight traffic from road to rail. The Confederation continues to pursue this road-to-rail policy, for example through the Alpine Transit Exchange³³ as a new tool for managing heavy goods vehicle traffic.

Goal 2.8

The transport infrastructure is no larger than necessary to perform its particular function, ensures appropriate coverage and guarantees that the transport system meets both qualitative and quantitative requirements.

Federal Council action to achieve this goal: According to the forecasts, the population – and traffic volumes – will continue to grow. To ensure that the transport infrastructure remains in good condition in the future, provides the neces-

sary capacity and prevents bottlenecks, we need forward-looking planning and active measures to manage traffic volumes as well as secure, long-term financing. Financial resources must be focused on the most severe transport problems and on those areas where the greatest effect can be achieved. With regard to road transport, this is where the NAF³⁴ motorways and agglomeration transport fund comes into play. This fund finances the construction, operation and expansion (including elimination of bottlenecks) of the national highway network, as well as transport infrastructures in Switzerland's agglomerations. In the rail sector, this function is performed by the Rail Infrastructure Fund RIF³⁵. These funds ensure long-term financing for the transport infrastructure to cope with high usage levels and the corresponding rise in costs, and to provide the necessary capacity for both passenger and freight transport. Furthermore, the network usage concept and the network usage plans³⁶ aim

to achieve an appropriate distribution of available rail infrastructure network capacity between the different types of transport, with due consideration given to both passenger and freight services. All in all, preference is given to the better use of existing infrastructures rather than capacity expansion.

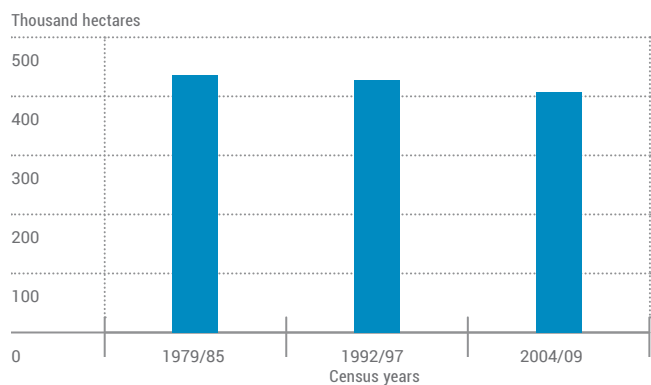
Goal 2.9

Suitable measures are in place to protect settlements and infrastructures from natural hazards.

Federal Council action to achieve this goal: In many places, natural hazards have always posed a danger to people, property and infrastructures. In the future, these existing risks will become greater as infrastructure assets grow and more and

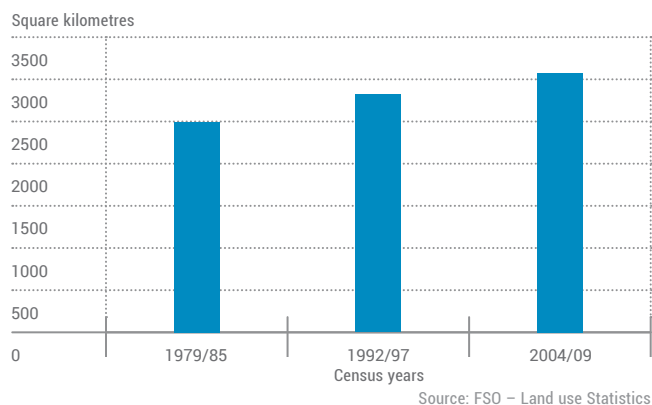
ARABLE LAND

Total open arable land and artificial grassland



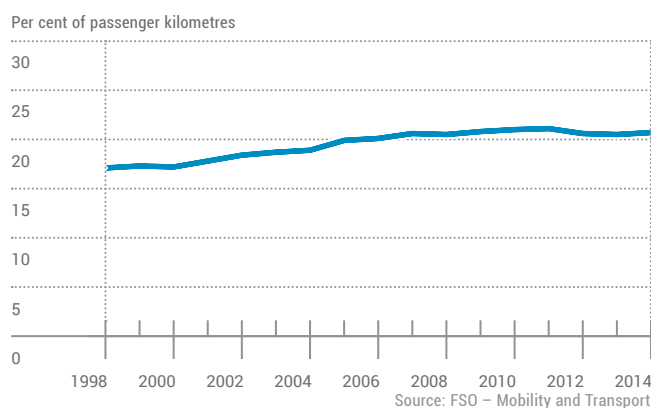
SETTLEMENT AREA

Industrial and commercial areas, building areas, transportation areas, special urban areas, recreational areas and green spaces



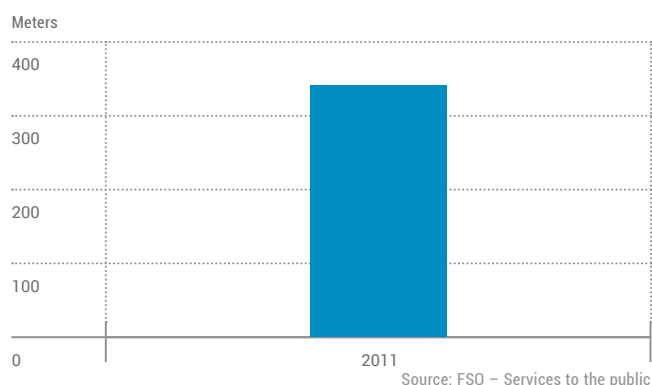
MODAL SPLIT OF PASSENGER TRANSPORT

Share of public transport in total passenger transport on road and rail



AVERAGE DISTANCE TO NEAREST PUBLIC TRANSPORT STOP

Effective distance based on the road network



more housing is built in risk areas. The effects of climate change are a further factor here. The Confederation is thus examining changes to the legal foundations in this area to ensure that risk is factored more fully into structural and usage planning, as well as the other Confederation, cantonal and municipal activities that affect the way in which space is used. In addition, current gaps in construction and planning norms will be closed, so that buildings and infrastructures in risk areas can be constructed or adapted to cope with these natural hazards. Keeping space free as a buffer zone for extreme events is an important part of this.

According to the natural hazards strategy for Switzerland³⁷ the approach to natural disasters demands integrated risk management which also places natural risks in the context of other relevant risks. Under the Federal Council's SKI strategy for the protection of critical infrastructures³⁸, this applies in particular to the construction and operation of (critical) infrastructures.

4.2.3.

Action area 3 – Energy and climate

Long-term vision

Energy needs are met without CO₂ emissions that impact on the climate, and from secure and renewable sources. There is an efficient, stable nationwide system for generating, storing and distributing renewable energy in the interests of reliable supplies. Full use is made of the domestic, economically viable potential for generating power and heat from renewable energies, while systematically and transparently balancing the interests of other uses, and preserving biological and landscape diversity. Primary energy consumption has stabilised at 2000 watts per person.

Greenhouse gas emissions have been cut to such an extent that Switzerland is able to make an appropriate contribution to the goal of keeping global warming to less than 2 °C compared with pre-industrialisation levels. In the face of changing living and environmental conditions, society, the economy and ecosystems have sufficient capacity, resilience and flexibility to adapt to climate change and to protect themselves against natural disasters.

Key medium-term challenges up to 2030

As part of the 2030 Agenda, the international community identified the following goals (SDG):

- Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
- Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

This poses the following key challenges for Switzerland:

- The current energy system is still based predominantly on non-renewable resources, with the corresponding effects on the climate and the environment. The options for broad diversification in countries of origin and transport routes are limited, which increasingly raises questions of security of supply. Action is needed to ensure a sufficient and secure supply of economical, environmentally friendly energy from a variety of sources. This energy must then be used rationally and sparingly. Meanwhile, cross-sectoral planning must weigh up conflicts of interest with other environmental concerns, such as biological and landscape diversity and water conservation, as well as heritage issues such as the preservation of historically significant buildings.
- Switzerland too has been affected by the acceleration in climate change in recent decades. Warming has been twice as high as the global mean, and is likely to continue. The probability and intensity of heatwaves, drought and heavy precipitation are growing, and thus also the risk of forest fires, flooding, unstable hillsides, poorer harvests and health problems. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), by 2050 global CO₂ emissions would have to be cut by between 50 and 85 per cent of their 1990 levels to keep the rise in temperature below 2° C and avert serious consequences for humankind. It should be emphasised that, in addition to reducing emissions, we also need a targeted adaptation strategy to cope with the consequences of climate change that have already happened, and those that are expected. Climate change can be contained at best, and its effects on health, natural hazards, biodiversity, water levels, agriculture and tourism mitigated.

Federal Council goals up to 2030, and action towards their achievement between 2016 and 2019

Goal 3.1

Greenhouse gases have been reduced by 50 per cent compared with 1990; at least 30 per cent of the total reduction is achieved by measures within Switzerland (average reduction of 25 or 30 % respectively in the period 2021–30).

Federal Council action to achieve this goal: The framework for national climate policy has been set since 2000 by the CO₂ Act³⁹. Its instruments should continue to be applied consistently, and toughened up in certain areas. The mix of measures encompasses three axes: financial support, regulation, and incentives. Financial support instruments include the buildings programme to increase the energy efficiency of buildings and the use of renewable energies, and the technology fund to promote climate and resource-friendly products and procedures. Regulatory instruments include emissions standards for new cars, the emissions trading system, and the duty of operators of fossil fuel-fired thermal power plants and importers of fossil fuels to compensate for the emissions they generate. Incentive measures include the CO₂ incentive charge on fossil fuels. Where air traffic is concerned, the International Civil Aviation Organisation Action Plan on CO₂ Emission Reduction in Switzerland⁴⁰ targets an improvement in fuel efficiency and growth in air traffic without an absolute increase in CO₂ emissions. The climate strategy for agriculture⁴¹, meanwhile, sets out measures that must be pursued to cut greenhouse gas emissions (CO₂, methane and nitrous oxide) from the agricultural sector.

At the international level, the UN Climate Change Conference in Paris at the end of 2015 adopted a long-term legally binding agreement on climate change for the post-2020 period. It covers the areas of mitigation, adaptation and financing, and is equally binding on all UN member states in accordance with their climate responsibility and capacity.

Goal 3.2

Average per-capita energy consumption is 34 per cent lower than in 2000 (16% lower by 2020, and 43 % lower by 2035).

Federal Council action to achieve this goal: The restructuring of Switzerland's system of energy supplies is set out in detail in the energy strategy for 2050⁴². The first stage comprises a package of measures to expand existing instruments, to improve energy efficiency, to promote renewable energies and to reduce fossil fuel consumption (see Goal 3.1). The SwissEnergy programme⁴³ supports the population, business sector, cities and communes on a number of key points in this regard, with awareness-raising, information, advice, education and training, and quality assurance. Furthermore,

by concluding target agreements with Switzerland's most energy-intensive industrial and service companies⁴⁴, the Confederation encourages the efficient use of fuels (both combustible and propellant) and electricity, and thus a reduction in CO₂ emissions.

In the second stage from 2021 onwards, the Confederation intends to replace the subsidy-based approach with a climate and energy incentive system⁴⁵ based primarily on climate and electricity levies. Transitioning to the incentive system should enable climate and energy targets to be reached more effectively and cost-efficiently than with financial support measures.

Private and public-sector research is an important contributor to the development and implementation of effective solutions to transform the energy system. The Confederation supports pilot and demonstration projects, and promotes energy research by a variety of means including the Swiss coordinated energy research action plan⁴⁶. It thereby supports the research efforts of the private sector with a complementary public-sector portfolio, and finances the establishment of networked, inter-university research competence centres, the Swiss Competence Centres for Energy Research (SCCER).

Goal 3.3

Average per-capita electricity consumption is 10 per cent lower than in 2000 (3 % lower by 2020, and 13 % lower by 2035).

Federal Council action to achieve this goal: To reduce electricity consumption, in addition to the measures set out under SwissEnergy programme⁴³ (see Goal 3.2), there will be a commercial tendering process for electricity efficiency measures⁴⁷ in the industrial, service and household fields. The Confederation promotes projects and programmes that would not come to fruition without grant support.

The power consumption of electrical appliances is being reduced by efficiency regulations⁴⁸. These determine requirements for household appliances, commercial and electronic equipment, electrical drive systems and electric lights. They are based on economic efficiency and are adapted periodically to reflect technical progress. The least efficient appliances are removed from the market. In addition, the Energy Label⁹ provides consumers with information about the efficiency of the electrical appliances on offer, and thus gives both manufacturers and retailers an incentive to develop and market particularly efficient products.

Goal 3.4

Average domestic electricity generation from renewable energies is at least 49 TWh, 37 TWh of which comes from hydropower (51 TWh in total with a hydropower share of 37 TWh by 2035).

Federal Council action to achieve this goal: To promote the generation of electricity from renewable sources, the Confederation provides financial support for facilities harnessing solar, wind and geothermal energy, as well as hydropower and biomass, via its KEV⁴⁹ scheme which pays producers for feeding electricity into the grid. The scheme covers the difference between generation costs and market price, and guarantees producers of renewable energy a price that covers their production expenses. In the future, it will be restructured into a system which pays a feed-in rate and is also combined

with direct marketing. Electricity generation from smaller-scale solar plants is supported by one-off subsidies⁵⁰, and the scheme will be expanded in future to include investment support for small-scale hydropower and biomass facilities.

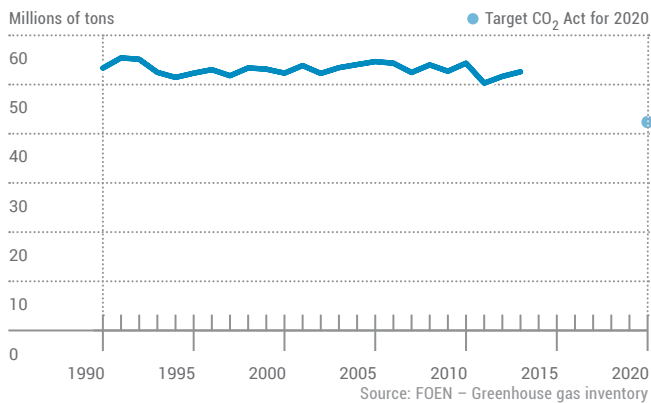
Goal 3.5

The implications of climate change for natural hazard processes are known, and changes in risk are identified at an early stage.

Federal Council action to achieve this goal: An increase in natural hazards such as heatwaves, flooding, mudslides, drought and forest fires can be expected as a consequence of climate change. We must continue to monitor dangerous natural hazard processes⁵¹, and expand this monitoring

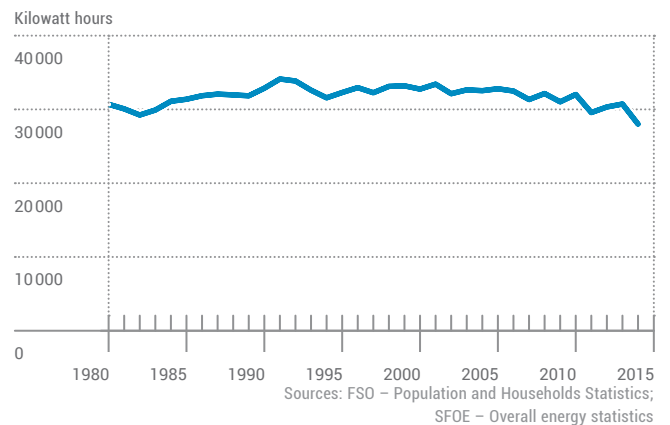
GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

CO₂ equivalents without carbon sink capacity of forests and emission reduction certificates



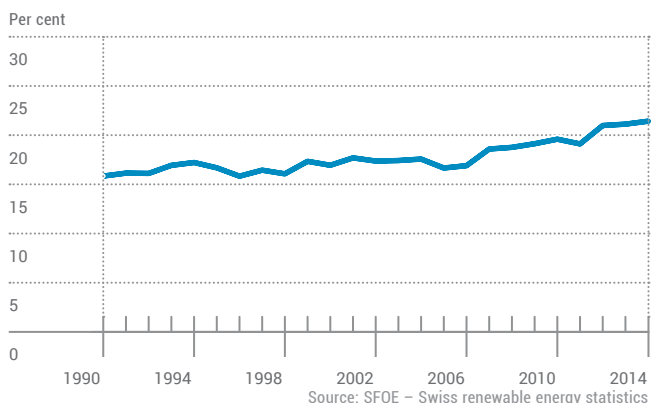
FINAL ENERGY CONSUMPTION PER CAPITA

Energy bought or self-produced by consumer for determined energy use



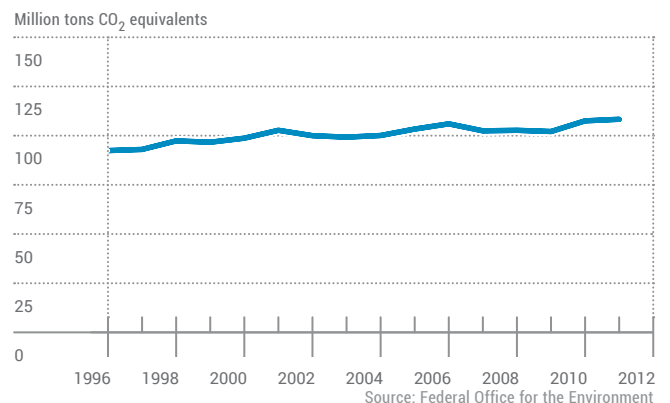
RENEWABLE ENERGIES

Share of final energy consumption



CARBON FOOTPRINT

Total greenhouse gases emissions resulting from the consumption of goods and services in Switzerland



where necessary, to identify and understand natural hazards and other climate-related changes at an early stage. This provides the basis on which the appropriate prevention, management and regeneration steps can be taken in good time. This is backed up by the continuous operational monitoring of climate indicators⁵² which permit estimates to be made of future climate-related changes.

Goal 3.6

The risks attached to climate change are minimised; use is made of climate-related opportunities; people, property and natural habitats are protected; and the economy, environment and society have all become more adaptable.

Federal Council action to achieve this goal: Climate change impacts on the economy, the environment and society. Action to adapt to its local effects is already needed, and will become increasingly important as global warming progresses. The adaptation to climate change action plan for 2014–19⁵³ is aimed at reviewing the capacity framework that enables Switzerland to adapt to climate change, and improving the basis of knowledge on which it rests. It contains sectoral measures which help the affected sectors to minimise climate-related risks, make the most of opportunities, and expand their adaptive capacity. It also sets out cross-sectoral measures designed to improve both knowledge and capacity to act. The focus here is on regularly updating climate scenarios, basic hydrological information and projections, the nationwide analysis of the opportunities and risks of climate change, and the coordination of adaptation work in cooperation between different levels of government. The Confederation is running a pilot programme to promote the implementation of the adaptation strategy at cantonal, regional and commune levels. Efforts are also being made to raise awareness among decision-makers and the population at large of the impacts of climate change.

4.2.4.

Action area 4 – Natural resources

Long-term vision

The quantitative and qualitative capacity and usage limits of the planet's natural resources are respected. This applies to areas such as biodiversity, the landscape, soil, air, water and forests, as well as renewable and non-renewable resources for use as energy or materials. The pressure on ecosystems is limited to allow them to remain functional, resilient and

maintain wildlife population numbers. The space needed to maintain resources is safeguarded. The environmental impact caused by Switzerland at home and abroad has been reduced to a level that nature can withstand.

Key medium-term challenges up to 2030

As part of the 2030 Agenda, the international community identified the following goals (SDG):

- Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
- Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
- Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
- Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

This poses the following key challenges for Switzerland:

● At the global level, exploitation of the earth's biocapacity is still excessive. This burden is also growing markedly in industrialising developing and threshold countries. At present, Switzerland uses three times the resources that sustainable development would actually permit, and around 70% of the environmental impact of Swiss consumption is felt abroad. This requires an abrupt about-turn in society and business towards sustainable patterns of consumption.

● A sufficient volume of intact natural resources is essential to healthy economic and social growth, yet they are under threat today from urban sprawl, overuse and environmental toxins. Major progress has already been made with regard to water and air quality, chemical pollutants and protection against natural hazards. However, micro pollutants – such as residues from medications or plant protection products – present a challenge, especially in the regions of the Swiss Mittelland where land usage is very intensive. Air quality continues to be impaired by fine particulate matter and ozone from combustion processes and agricultural emissions. Meanwhile, heavy metals have been found in problematic concentrations in the soil, the carbon content of arable land is too low, and productive land is still being lost to development and erosion.

● Biodiversity has declined significantly over the past century, with half of Switzerland's habitats and a third of its species now under threat. Although the instruments and measures applied to date have achieved a certain success, they are not enough. The ecological infrastructure of reserves and habitat networks must be upgraded and expanded to secure the land needed to preserve biodiversity in the long term. The conservation status of national priority species must be improved to prevent their extinction to the extent

possible. Genetic impoverishment must be halted, and further efforts must be made to prevent the spread of invasive foreign species with the potential to harm the Swiss environment.

● If we are to preserve natural resources successfully, it is also absolutely essential that their importance and value as the foundations of society and business are properly recognised and respected. This must be strengthened still further.

Federal Council goals up to 2030, and action towards their achievement between 2016 and 2019

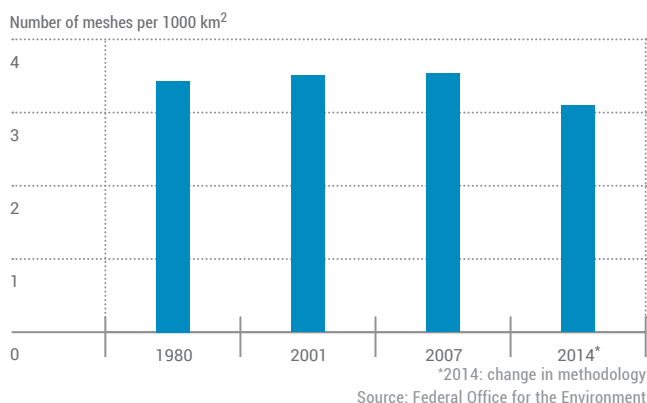
Goal 4.1

Switzerland has an ecological infrastructure of reserves and habitat networks in place; there have been improvements in both the state of undeveloped areas and the conservation status of wildlife species.

Federal Council action to achieve this goal: Working alongside the cantons, with its Swiss Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan⁵⁴ the Confederation aims to implement measures to conserve biodiversity in both the immediate and long terms, based on ten strategic objectives. These include securing reserves and habitat networks, the sustainable use of re-

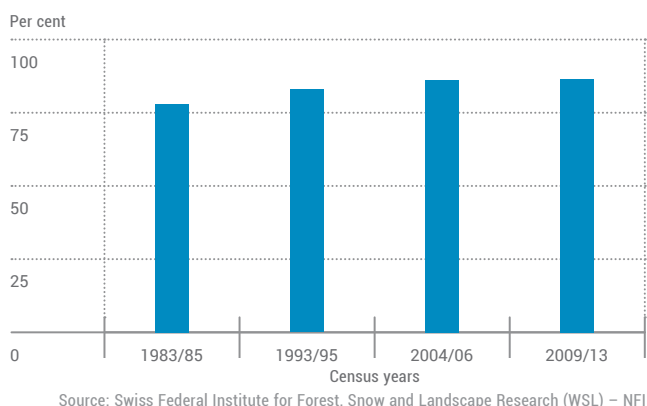
LANDSCAPE FRAGMENTATION

Effective mesh density, taking into account roads. The effective mesh density measures the probability that two randomly chosen points are separated by an obstacle (roads or settlements for example)



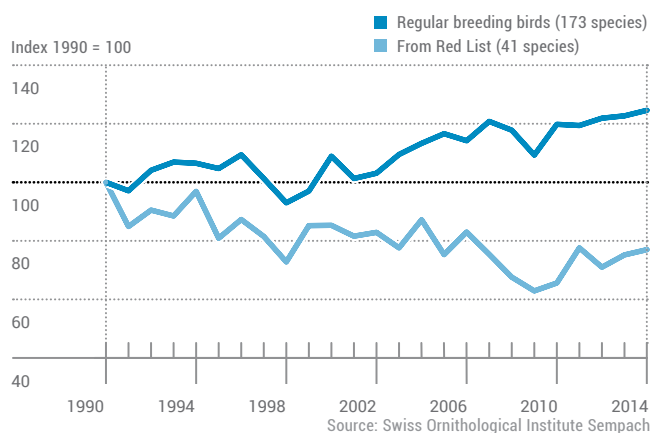
ECOLOGICAL QUALITY OF THE FOREST

Share of forest area with medium and high biotope values



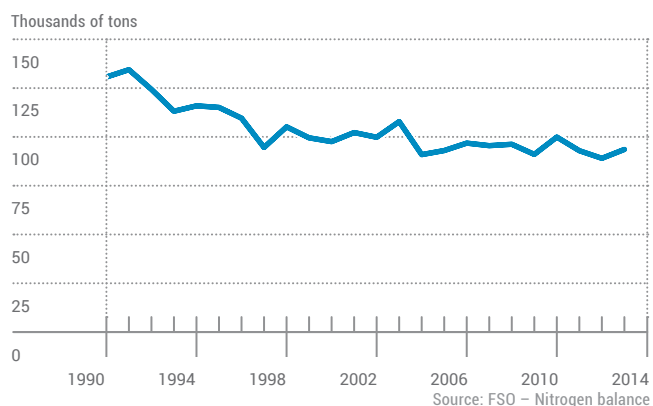
BREEDING BIRD POPULATIONS

Trend in breeding bird populations in Switzerland



AGRICULTURAL NITROGEN BALANCE

Difference between the amount of nitrogen entering agricultural land and the amount withdrawn from it



sources, promoting biodiversity in urban areas, and factoring biodiversity into measurements of national well-being. The Confederation is also working with the cantons to strengthen enforcement across the full range of environmental legislation. A pilot project from 2014 to 2016 trialled the implementation of five measures: comparison and evaluation, tougher monitoring, programmes to encourage cooperation, networking between different policy areas, and a review of the sanction mechanism. The findings of the project will then be implemented, backed up by new means of enforcement.

At the international level, the Confederation is committed to implementing the global Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020⁵⁵ and to achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets for 2020, as well as to establishing clear international rules and frameworks for sustainable forest management.

Goal 4.2

Soil function is preserved for the long term. Soil use does not result in degradation and, where possible, soils and their function are restored.

Federal Council action to achieve this goal: Smart resource management is needed to ensure that the soil can continue in future to fulfil its diverse functions in terms of food, water supplies and a source of energy and raw materials. This should be secured by means of the Confederation's soil strategy¹⁸, which is designed to balance the need to conserve the soil and the need to use it by taking a multifunctional approach that will ultimately share the available land area in the best possible way between the differing requirements. For soil to maintain its multifunctionality overall, no matter what the location it should be used primarily for the purpose to which it is best suited, and soils which have become degraded should be restored. In addition to the soil strategy, the Confederation also pursues the sectoral plan for crop rotation areas¹⁷. A forward-looking approach to weighing up economic, environmental and social interests is crucial here.

Goal 4.3

Forests are managed and used efficiently in a way that preserves their natural qualities. All forest functions are fulfilled equally, and their basic spatial structure is preserved without any shrinkage in the land area covered.

Federal Council action to achieve this goal: The Confederation is committed to ensuring sensitive forest management, to the use and conservation of forest ecosystems, and to creating favourable conditions for efficient and innovative forestry and timber sectors. With its resource policy for wood⁵⁶, it encourages the consistent use of wood from domestic forests, and the resource-efficient use of the raw material. The Confederation's forests policy 2020⁵⁷ is intended to create favourable conditions for sensitive, efficient

and innovative forest management to ensure that Switzerland's forests are able to fulfil their many different functions. The spatial structure of the forests, as well as the land area they occupy, should largely be preserved. Forest development in the future will be coordinated with landscape diversity (including the networks between different landscapes) and with spatial development objectives (including priority agricultural areas). The Federal Council's forests policy 2020 and the Confederation's resource policy for wood are updated and enhanced continually.

Goal 4.4

The landscape continues to be developed and shaped while preserving its character. The benefits of the landscape are recognised and secured.

Federal Council action to achieve this goal: The Confederation pursues an integrated landscape policy to secure the qualities of the Swiss landscape and its benefits to society in the long term. The Swiss Landscape Concept (LCS)⁵⁸ provides guidelines for nature and landscape conservation in the performance of federal government tasks, and is binding on all authorities. One of its objectives is to counter the pressure caused by the increasing area occupied by settlements and transport infrastructures, and the associated urban sprawl and landscape fragmentation. With a view to taking on the role of an overall landscape concept in the future, the LCS is being updated to improve coordination between space-related policy areas such as spatial planning, energy, transport and agriculture.

Goal 4.5

The agriculture and food industry is competitive, resilient, environmentally friendly and resource-efficient along the entire value chain.

Federal Council action to achieve this goal: Useful agricultural area is under great pressure. To ensure sustainable food production and supplies, the Confederation applies instruments such as the agricultural policy for 2014–17⁵⁹ to improve farm competitiveness and support shared services within the agricultural sector. This includes security of supply grants to maintain production capacity in the event of supply bottlenecks, production system grants to promote particularly traditional, environmentally and animal-friendly forms of production, grants to keep agricultural landscapes undeveloped, biodiversity grants to preserve and promote biodiversity, landscape quality grants to preserve, promote and enhance the future of a variety of agricultural landscapes, resource efficiency grants to improve resources, and transitional grants to ensure that these developments are palatable to society at large. Agricultural policy will be evaluated to

determine its impacts on all dimensions of sustainability, and its instruments optimised at the secondary legislation (ordinance) level where necessary. The aim of the plant protection products action plan⁶⁰, meanwhile, is to reduce the risk of pollution from plant protection products, and thus protect humans and the environment even more effectively from harm.

At the international level, the Confederation specifically supports the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and participates in the international 10-Year Framework for Programmes on Consumption and Production⁶¹ (10YFP) as part of its global-level commitment to sustainable food and nutrition systems. Switzerland also runs its Global Programme Food Security 62 for sustainable agriculture and food security world-wide.

4.2.5.

Action area 5 – Economic and financial system

Long-term vision

The Swiss economy and financial system is competitive and resilient, as well as transparent, open and innovative. It serves the common good and the welfare of the individual, secures jobs and appropriate pay for those in employment, and offers opportunities for personal development as well as decent working conditions on the same terms for all. It operates within environmental tolerance limits.

Common goods and resources are distributed fairly in consideration of future generations, and economic and fiscal policy are congruent with these principles. Where possible, external costs are internalised at all stages of the value chain. Counter-productive incentive systems that distort the market have been eliminated, and market forces enable sustainable economic growth. Intervention in economic freedoms is avoided as much as possible.

Illegal and unfair flows of funds across international borders, as well as tax evasion, are contained. The public-sector budget is balanced, and the tax burden moderate.

Key medium-term challenges up to 2030

As part of the 2030 Agenda, the international community identified the following goals (SDG):

- Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
- Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries
- Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
- Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development

This poses the following key challenges for Switzerland:

- The Swiss economy needs the best possible operating conditions so that it can guarantee high productivity and hold its competitive ground internationally, thereby securing jobs and prosperity in Switzerland. This calls for a competitive business environment and the retention or enhancement of access to foreign markets as well as a minimum of bureaucracy.
- In view of slow growth in the working population as a proportion of the total, efforts are required to bring out the potential present in the labour force and to counter the challenges presented by demographic change. A further priority is to raise aggregate labour productivity, which has advanced only marginally over the past two decades and is currently lower than in peer economies. At the same time, it is important to encourage high workplace quality and to keep stress levels low.
- Our footprint continues to greatly exceed the earth's biocapacity. Enormous efforts are required if we are to conserve natural habitats successfully. This is to be achieved by 'green economy' programmes which improve resource efficiency and reduce resource use, encourage the decoupling of resource consumption and economic growth, and facilitate a dialogue with business, the scientific community, and society as a whole. This demands public-sector frameworks which encourage innovation, as well as a strong voluntary commitment on the part of these three sectors. True-cost pricing for energy, mobility, waste disposal, space and resource consumption must also become more widespread by reducing non-sustainable subsidies and internalising external costs where possible.
- Sustainable development means ensuring that present generations do not live at the expense of future generations. From the fiscal policy perspective, this means preventing an undesirable redistribution of wealth between generations. This is achieved by means of a balanced public-sector budget in the medium term, low rates of debt, and low levels of gov-

ernment spending and taxation in comparison with other countries. Switzerland's appeal as a business location should be given a strategic boost by means of an attractive tax system.

- As a dynamic and open economy with its own currency and a major international financial sector, Switzerland is reliant upon a stable financial system. Action must therefore be taken to achieve this stability and resilience, and to ensure that the financial sector is able to withstand shocks without resorting to bailouts from the public purse.

- Unfair and illegal flows of funds resulting from tax avoidance and evasion, as well as money laundering and corruption, are a drain on public budgets world-wide. Working in particular on the basis of international standards published by recognised bodies, a concerted international effort is therefore required to tackle the root cause of such transactions and to implement the relevant standards domestically.

Federal Council goals up to 2030, and action towards their achievement between 2016 and 2019

Goal 5.1

The Swiss economy is capable of raising labour productivity in the long term. The economy is resilient, secures jobs, improves resource-efficiency and increases the prosperity of the population. As its contribution to respect for planetary tolerance limits, the overuse of natural resources is avoided, and the environmental impact of production and consumption is significantly reduced.

Federal Council action to achieve this goal: The new growth policy⁶³ targets sustainable economic growth. In the future, it will be based on three pillars: raising labour productivity, strengthening the resilience of the economy, and mitigating problematic side-effects. The Federal Council has determined that a sustainable, long-term economic policy should focus primarily on high and growing per-capita incomes. Economic output should be raised in particular by the more efficient and productive use of all factors of production. The capacity of companies to innovate is an important part of this, which the Confederation supports specifically by creating the right operating framework.

Mitigating problematic side-effects addresses the possible negative consequences of economic growth, as well as conflicts of interest with other social and environmental concerns. On the environmental front, in its green economy⁴ and other programmes, the Confederation actively promotes the sparing use of natural resources, green patterns of consumption and a stronger closed-loop economy. At the global level, the Confederation is also actively involved in promoting a green economy, for example through initiatives such as the

10-Year Framework for Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP)⁶¹.

To expand the knowledge base about green economies, the launch of a Swiss National Science Foundation National Research Programme on the green economy is currently being considered.

Goal 5.2

Decent working conditions and social standards are maintained and encouraged.

Federal Council action to achieve this goal: Decent working conditions form one of the cornerstones of ethical and sustainable business. By ratifying International Labour Organization conventions 170⁶⁴ (safety in the use of chemicals at work) and 174⁶⁴ (prevention of major industrial accidents), the Federal Council has committed itself to sufficient occupational health and safety at the workplace. This is crucial to the protection of the population and the environment, and helps to achieve dignified working conditions.

To reduce stress and other psychosocial strain at the workplace, the Confederation has joined forces with cantonal executive bodies to launch a targeted campaign promoting prevention at work⁶⁵.

Goal 5.3

The public-sector budget is balanced. The public sector is not run at the expense of future generations.

Federal Council action to achieve this goal: A balanced public-sector budget is of key importance to avoid transferring any financial burden on to future generations. According to International Monetary Fund (IMF) guidelines, the disclosure of budgetary risks is a fundamental element of risk management, and thus of sustainable fiscal policy. The Confederation contributes to the management of risk by reporting regularly on current budget risks⁶⁶.

The Federal Council's financial policy model⁶⁷ determines the objectives, principles and instruments of Confederation fiscal policy. It sets out guidelines for fiscal policy decisions on the part of both the executive and administrative branches of government. In view of seismic shifts in the operating framework since the current financial policy model was drawn up in 1999, it is to be amended in line with the Confederation's primary goals.

Goal 5.4

The Swiss financial sector is competitive, transparent and has a long-term focus. It stands out internationally for its quality, integrity and stability. Measures are in place to prevent 'too big to fail' situations.

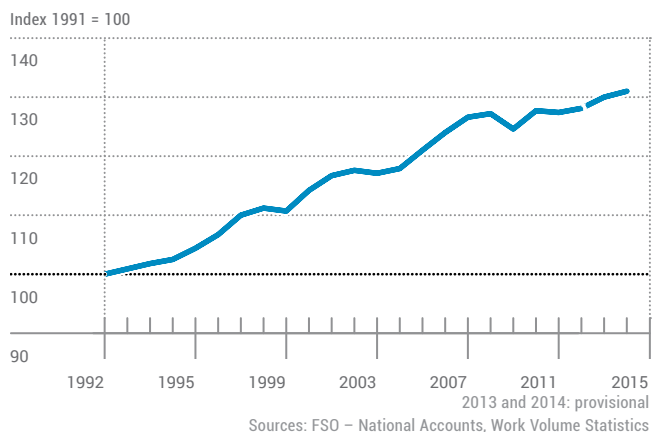
Federal Council action to achieve this goal: Under its current financial markets policy, the Confederation is committed to a strong, internationally competitive and sustainable financial sector that operates with integrity. Access to foreign markets must be secured and an active role must be played in shaping and implementing international tax and financial standards and in creating a prudent system of regulation for Switzerland. To strengthen legal certainty for investors, business owners and customers and to minimise reputational risks, laws and ordinances will be amended or passed in the follow-

ing areas: guarantees of stability and consumer and investor protection, corporate taxation, the exchange of bank client data, and stricter rules to prevent white-collar crime.

To reduce the risks to Switzerland as a whole from systemically important financial institutions, regulations will ensure that they have sufficient equity capital and are organised in such a way that, if necessary, they could be wound up without public-sector support⁶⁸. These regulations are reviewed regularly.

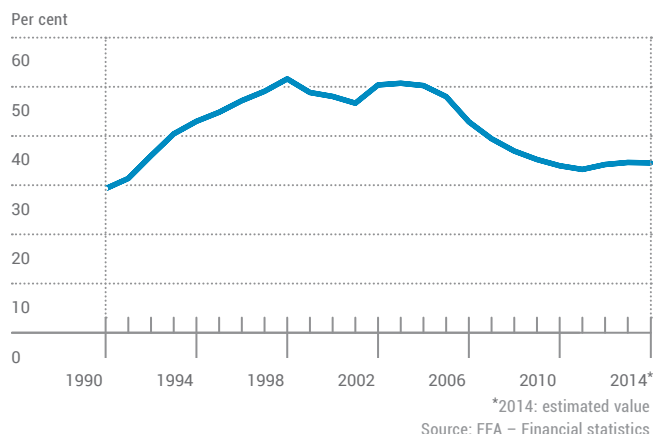
LABOUR PRODUCTIVITY

Productivity trend by hours actually worked. At previous year's prices, reference year = 2010



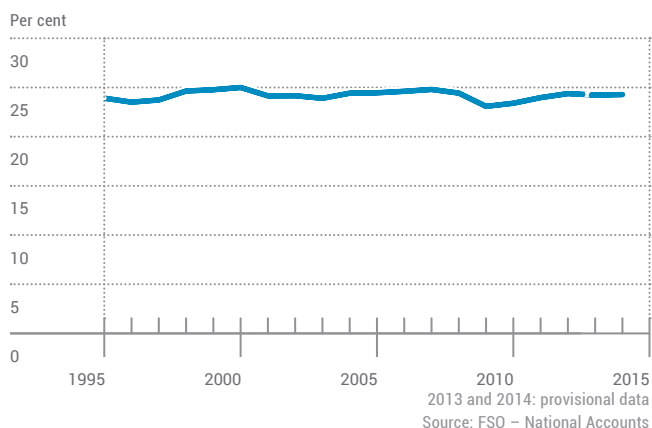
LEVEL OF PUBLIC DEBT

Gross debt of the Confederation, cantons and communes (without social insurance) in relation to gross domestic product



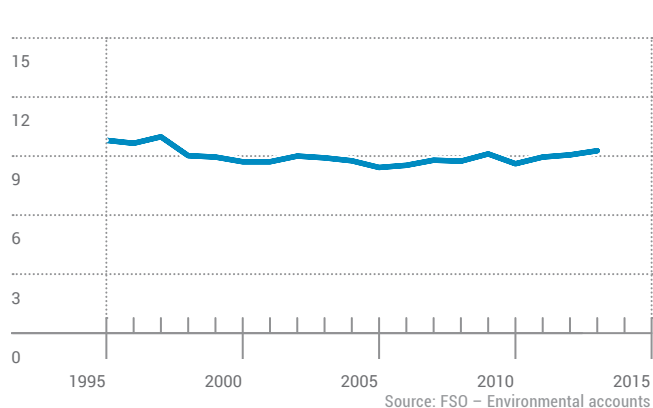
INVESTMENT TO GDP RATIO

Gross investments in relation to the gross domestic product



ENVIRONMENTAL TAXES

Taxation of labour in relation to environmental taxes



Goal 5.5

Mechanisms to internalise negative externalities into market prices have been developed, and implemented where this is possible and makes sense.

Federal Council action to achieve this goal: Internalising external costs into market prices is an efficient, market-based means of reducing the negative effects of economic activity. It puts a price on these costs, such as the impact on the environment, and there is thus an incentive to avoid them. The Confederation already employs a range of instruments here. For example, in the heavy vehicle sector, external effects such as environmental and accident costs are internalised via the distance-related Heavy Vehicle Fee³² (HVF). The CO₂ levy⁶⁹, an incentive charge, increases the costs of fossil fuels such as heating oil and natural gas, to create incentives to use them sparingly and to increase consumption of carbon-neutral or low-carbon sources of energy. In a similar way, the VOC fee⁷⁰ creates incentives to make more sparing use of volatile organic compounds. From 2021 onwards, it is planned that a climate and energy incentive system⁴⁵ of climate and electricity levies will permit the gradual dismantling of today's subsidy-based measures in favour of an incentive-only system.

There is still a considerable need for action to internalise the external effects of today's products and services. For this to be possible in the future, it will be crucial to create a methodological foundation on which to value and monetarise these different effects. As the first step in this direction, the Confederation is committed to improving the methodological basis for environmental assessments of products and raw materials⁴. This is intended to increase transparency about where exactly along the value chain the relevant environmental impacts are taking place. In addition, as part of its green economy action plan⁴ the Confederation is committed to strengthening and extending the application of established voluntary international standards promoting resource-efficient products.

4.2.6.

Action area 6 – Education, research and innovation

Long-term vision

In a global comparison, Switzerland has a highly developed, high-performing system of education, research and innovation. This enables people to take responsibility for their own thoughts and actions, to experience personal growth, to acquire the knowledge and skills they need to be employable, and to strengthen both their own resilience and that of society as a whole. It gives them the capacity to recognise the importance of sustainable development and to play an active, thoughtful part in the form it should take.

A funding policy for education, research and innovation that is rooted in the principles of sustainable development helps to strengthen Switzerland as a scientific centre, to further expand its ability to take responsibility for the future and to be part of the solution to global problems.

The actions of the actors involved in education, research and innovation are based on personal responsibility and independent initiative, an awareness of society and the future, and interactive and interdisciplinary learning. This ensures a continuous supply of new impetus and new approaches to drive sustainable development forward.

Key medium-term challenges up to 2030

As part of the 2030 Agenda, the international community identified the following goal (SDG):

- Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

This poses the following key challenges for Switzerland:

- Education, research and innovation (ERI) are of vital importance to common welfare, social cohesion and Switzerland's competitiveness. Switzerland can only be one of the world's leading science nations if it has an ERI system that is effective and adaptive, coherent in itself, needs-based and internationally open. Its complementary strands of vocational and general education should remain a major factor in supplying business, public service and research and innovation with a broad variety of well-qualified specialists who keep their skills and knowledge up to date.

● One principle is key here: in ERI, as elsewhere, there should be no discrimination on the basis of physical or mental characteristics, gender, or social, economic or cultural background, or on the basis of prejudice or stereotype. The action that must be taken to eliminate such discrimination is also seen as helping to support equal opportunities and mobilise untapped resources and talent. At the same time, a continued effort is required to enhance understanding of sustainability in the education and research spheres.

Federal Council goals up to 2030, and action towards their achievement between 2016 and 2019

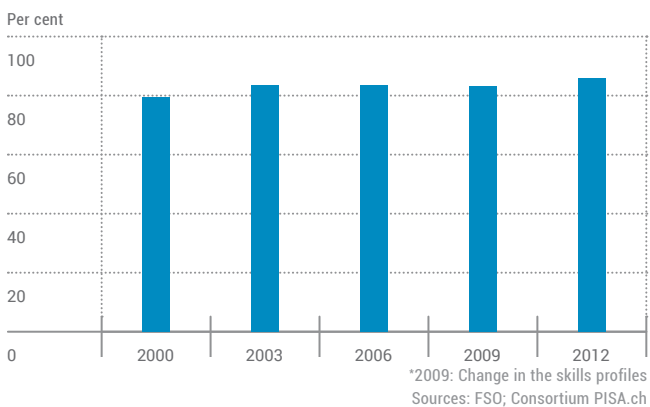
Goal 6.1

Sustainable development is an integral part of the ERI system and is strengthened via its funding mechanisms at home and abroad.

Federal Council action to achieve this goal: The Confederation bases the financial support measures proposed in the ERI Dispatch for 2017–20⁷¹ on the principles of sustainable development. In doing so, it ensures coherence and continuity beyond the individual four-year funding periods covered by the Dispatches.

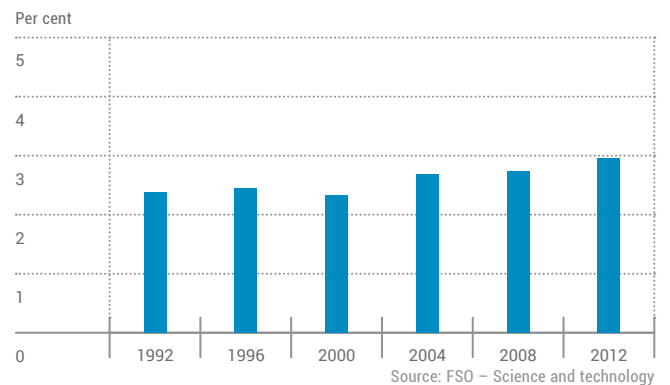
READING SKILLS OF 15-YEAR-OLDS

Share of 15-year-olds reaching at least reading skills level 2 (scale <1 to 6*)



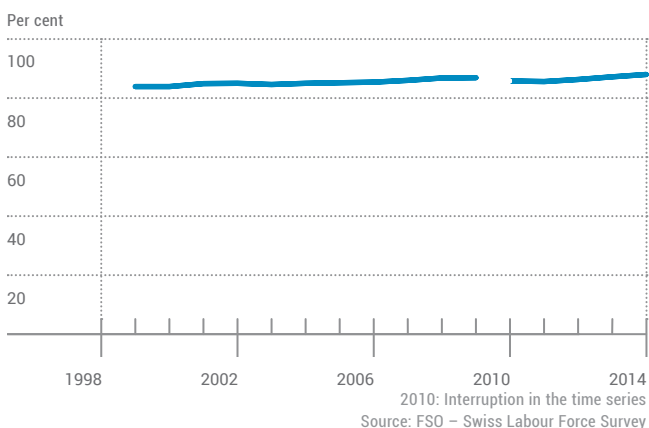
EXPENDITURE ON RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Share of gross domestic product



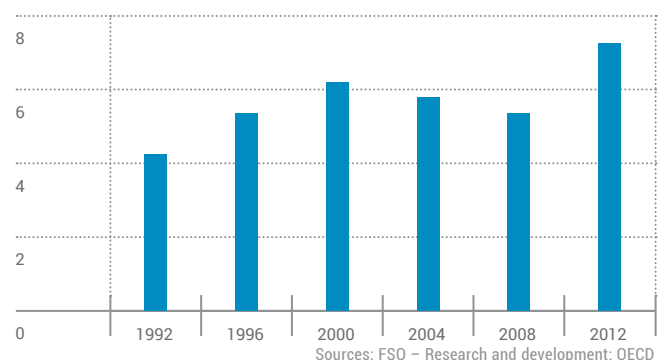
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF THE POPULATION

Share of 25-64 year-olds of the permanent resident population who have completed upper secondary or tertiary level education



NUMBER OF RESEARCHERS

Full-time equivalents per thousand employed persons



At the international level, the Confederation is committed to implementing the UNESCO Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)⁷², which builds on the corresponding forerunner programme for 2005–14. Switzerland also contributes to the agendas of other international organisations – such as the UN, UNESCO, the OECD and the Council of Europe – to promote education for sustainable development by participating in cross-border partnerships or by initiating and supporting them.

Goal 6.2

Sustainable development forms an integral part of the objectives shared by the Confederation and the Cantons for education in Switzerland.

Federal Council action to achieve this goal: The Confederation and the cantons are committed to integrating education for sustainable development (ESD) in schools and educational curricula. This work previously concentrated on compulsory schooling, but is now to be extended to cover other levels and areas of education, specifically foundation courses in vocational education and training, as well as secondary schools with an academic bias. In the vocational education and training (VET) sector, the Confederation supports a variety of professional associations with foundation courses and more advanced training. In this way, the skills that are needed to protect natural resources and use them sustainably, as well to consume energy sustainably, can be incorporated into the core materials for this training, such as the course regulations, training plan, examination regulations and framework curriculum. Furthermore, *éducation*²¹ – a foundation supported by the Confederation as the national skills centre for ESD – is currently drawing up proposals for the introduction and rollout of ESD in vocational education and training.

Education for sustainable development forms part of reporting on education at both Confederation and cantonal levels, and will be included in the Swiss education report 2018⁷³. Sustainable development is now a fixed element of the report, which tracks the continued development of the Swiss education system. The report in itself is also strengthened by the inclusion of sustainable development.

Goal 6.3

Individuals are empowered to help support sustainable development.

Federal Council action to achieve this goal: In addition to being included in formal education curricula, sustainable development should also be encouraged in the non-formal and informal education sectors. The Confederation supports the efforts of the organisations involved to create a closer and more effective network and to develop implementation programmes together.

4.2.7.

Action area 7 – Social security

Long-term vision

Social security systems are safeguarded and are funded for the long term. They are adapted to changing economic and social circumstances to ensure a subsistence income for all. Opportunities are taken to achieve an inclusive, united and diverse society. Poverty and social isolation have been eradicated because everyone is assured that their basic needs will be met and that they will have access to the goods, healthcare, education, work, means of communication and culture that they need to live a life of dignity. The challenges posed by economic, environmental and social change have been anticipated.

Key medium-term challenges up to 2030

As part of the 2030 Agenda, the international community identified the following goals (SDG):

- Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere
- Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

This poses the following key challenges for Switzerland:

The proportion of people of retirement age will continue to rise in relation to the working population, which will place added pressure on social security systems and on social policy. Systems for providing security in old age must therefore be adapted to demographic trends, without shifting the financial burden to future generations.

There remains an urgent need for financial social benefits and state services to be better coordinated. This is true not only of social policies, but also of labour market, immigration, health, housing, family, education, equality and tax policies, if we are to prevent people falling into serious poverty traps. At the same time, however, lasting dependency on state means-tested benefits must be avoided.

Although the proportion of people living below the poverty line has fallen in recent years, almost eight per cent (2012) of the permanent resident population in private households is still affected. Poverty is particularly prevalent in single-person and single-parent households, in dual-parent households with three or more children and among people with only basic schooling as well as women and pensioners. Existing programmes to prevent and combat poverty must therefore be strengthened, and coordinated more effectively. Each individ-

ual must have the opportunity to make the most of their personal capabilities. Educational opportunity is a particular area of focus here. Others include the integration into society and working life of those with limited job market prospects, support for families, and the provision of information on available support.

Federal Council goals up to 2030, and action towards their achievement between 2016 and 2019

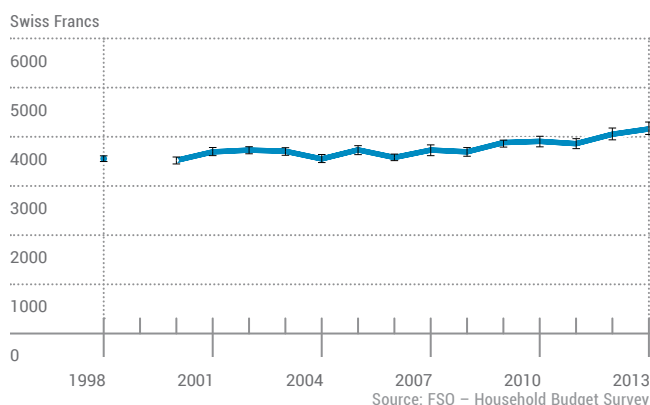
Goal 7.1

Social security enables the entire population to participate in social and economic life. The system reflects changing social and economic circumstances and its funding is secure.

Federal Council action to achieve this goal: Under the Retirement Provision 2020⁷⁴ reform programme, action will be taken to maintain the level of retirement benefits and to ensure financial equilibrium. It will take account of the demographic and economic shifts which pose enormous challenges to the pay-as-you-go basic state pension scheme

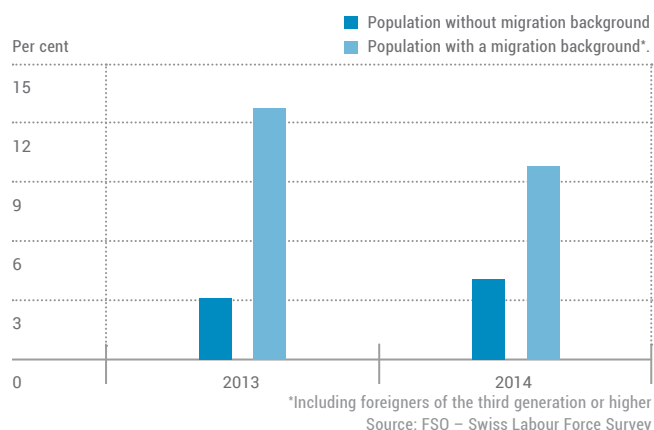
EQUIVALISED DISPOSABLE INCOME

Monthly equivalised disposable income at 2013 prices (median). The net disposable income takes into account differences in household size and composition.



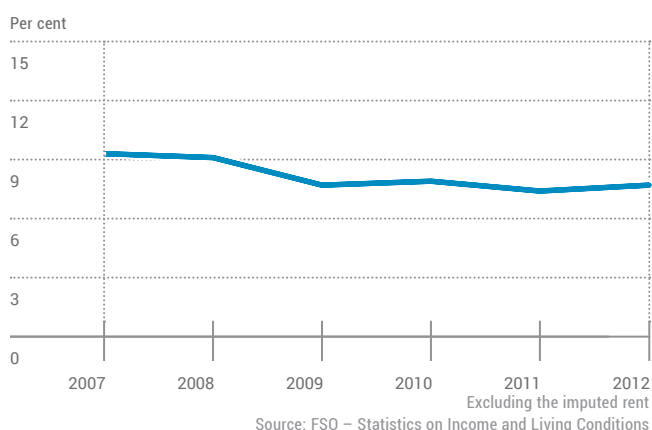
EARLY SCHOOL LEAVERS BY MIGRATORY STATUS

Share of young persons aged 18–24 who are no longer in education and have no post-compulsory education



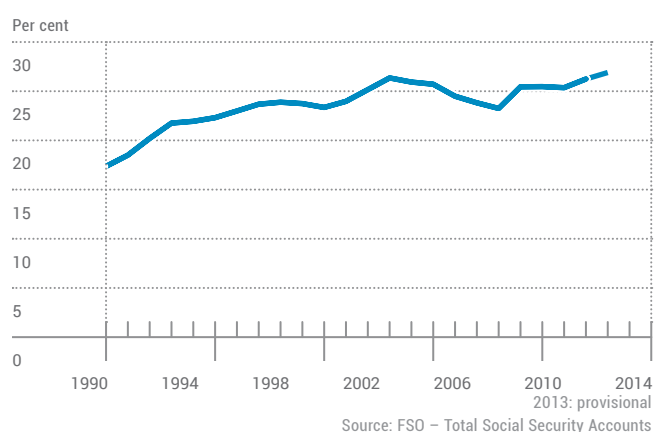
POVERTY RATE

Share of the permanent resident population living below the poverty line



TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON SOCIAL SECURITY

As a percentage of the gross domestic product



(AHV), as well as occupational pension provision in the form of savings insurance. Reform of occupational pension provision will also improve the distribution of surpluses, as well as transparency and regulation.

Since 2004, Switzerland's disability insurance scheme (IV) has become much more successful at integrating people with disabilities into the world of work. However, further efforts are still required to integrate children and young people with health problems, as well as those with mental health issues. Plans for the future of the IV scheme⁷⁵ aim to close this gap and to strengthen coordination between the parties which contribute to social security. The reforms are aimed at preventing a rise in disability pensions among young adults and people with a mental impairment.

Goal 7.2

The different security and integration systems dovetail with each other. The available support is used effectively and efficiently in the interests of those who need it.

Federal Council action to achieve this goal: Under the aegis of inter-institutional cooperation⁷⁶, the actions of the different parties involved in social security, integration and health-care provision are coordinated with each other. Specifically, all individuals should be assured of access to appropriate education and qualifications. This is particularly important for people with disabilities, as well as migrants, to enable them to join the labour market and find lasting employment as soon as possible. Action should also be taken to support the (re)integration of those with mental health issues into the world of work. This requires close cooperation between the various IIC coordination offices at all levels of government, which should themselves be further expanded and strengthened.

Goal 7.3

Those at risk of and living in poverty have a good chance of integration into society and the labour market.

Federal Council action to achieve this goal: Alongside the cantons, cities, communes, social partners and non-governmental organisations, the Confederation is involved in a national programme for the period 2014–18⁷⁷ which seeks to both prevent and combat poverty. The programme encourages networking between the actors in this sphere and creates foundations and information for early support through to the transition into work, adult education (enabling adults to gain a professional qualification), integration into society and the world of work as well as addressing the areas of housing, family poverty and monitoring. The programme's findings on how to improve educational opportunities for socially disadvantaged individuals, on integration into society and working life, as well as with regard to general living con-

ditions, are made available to professionals in the field. In this way, the programme helps to improve the chances of integration for those at risk of and living in poverty.

Goal 7.4

Vulnerable individuals receive the protection they need and are integrated as quickly as possible. Asylum-seekers are treated in a credible, efficient and appropriate way in accordance with the rule of law.

Federal Council action to achieve this goal: Those in need who apply for asylum in Switzerland should be treated swiftly and fairly. By restructuring its system of asylum⁷⁸, the Confederation aims to speed up asylum proceedings and to conduct them in regional government-run centres. Accommodation facilities are to be structured on a regional basis and organised efficiently. As proceedings are made faster, legal protection will also be extended to allow asylum seekers with no financial resources of their own access to free advice and legal representation.

4.2.8.

Action area 8 – Social cohesion and gender equality

Long-term vision

Social cohesion is strong in Switzerland, and everyone has prospects for the future. Relationships of equality between the sexes, generations, cultures, religions, regions and linguistic and social communities are assured, and high levels of mutual acceptance and tolerance prevail. Oppression, discrimination and violence in all their forms are curbed. Men and women enjoy the same financial independence and have equal rights to participate in political and economic life. In all areas, people with disabilities are included and enjoy equal opportunities. Proactive action is taken to counter the challenges of migration.

Swiss society has dismantled the structural framework that supported discrimination, and actively practises integration, pluralism, and equal rights and opportunities for all. The social, housing and working environment, as well as opportunities for sport, exercise and leisure, permit a good quality of life and support social integration. Great importance is attached to culture and creativity. Social decision-making

processes are democratic, participatory, transparent and fair. Voluntary work is common.

Key medium-term challenges up to 2030

As part of the 2030 Agenda, the international community identified the following goals (SDG):

- Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries
- Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

This poses the following key challenges for Switzerland:

- Social cohesion is challenged by many factors, such as the income gap, or poverty. Other developments which might jeopardise this cohesion are fears of the possible consequences of both regular and irregular migration and of cultural pluralism, as well as ideational and religious tensions.

- Reciprocal knowledge and recognition of the different cultures to be found within Switzerland, and the integration of the resident foreign population, are particularly important to social cohesion. To achieve this, it is essential that discriminatory barriers be taken down, that all forms of racism are tackled rigorously, and that there is respect for the human and basic constitutional rights of all. Problems that stem from a lack of integration on both sides must be reduced, and consequential costs thus minimised.

- Sustainable social development demands a cohesive and fair society. This in turn requires the right frameworks for equal opportunities, equal rights and participation in the life of society, as well as appropriate opportunities to participate in political decision-making. Areas of focus here include gender equality, and especially ensuring wage equality, supporting the reconciliation of work and family life, and participation in decision-making processes. Another is equality for people with disabilities, and their genuine participation in the life of society, which has not yet been achieved to a sufficient level. We must also continue to constantly monitor social problems such as violence and oppression, and to combat them in all their forms. This applies in particular to domestic violence, forced marriage, physical, psychological and sexual violence, and female genital mutilation (FGM).

- Inter-generational understanding is another important aspect of social cohesion. Demographic trends are demanding that we prepare ourselves for a four-generation society. In the future, policies must increasingly adopt approaches that harness the potential offered by all of the different generations and that strengthen intergenerational relations overall.

- Switzerland is also a country of considerable regional diversity. Here it is important to promote aspects such as national cohesion, mutual understanding and interregional solidarity. Taking linguistic and cultural diversity into account, efforts to foster shared values should be continued. Continuous dialogue plays a key role here. Access to Switzerland's national languages must be assured.

- The social and cultural evolution of the individual is one of the primary goals of human development. Cultural aspects must therefore be considered in any form of political action. In addition to this wholesale inclusion, sustainable social and societal development also demands targeted promotion and measures for the creation and preservation of culture and heritage.

Federal Council goals up to 2030, and action towards their achievement between 2016 and 2019

Goal 8.1

All sections of the population are able to participate in the life of society. Honorary positions and volunteer work are recognised and supported as pillars of our society.

Federal Council action to achieve this goal: Participation by all in the life of society counters polarisation, and is thus important in managing the challenges of our culturally diverse nation. The Confederation is committed to cementing social cohesion and strengthening this participation.

The Culture Dispatch 2016–20²⁶ sets out changes to increase cultural participation, i.e. to get as many people as possible involved in the cultural life and cultural heritage of Switzerland. These plans include new powers for the Confederation to support access to culture as part of the revision of the Culture Promotion Act⁷⁹, expanding music teaching with the launch of the youth and music programme⁸⁰, and a greater effort to promote reading skills. The Confederation also supports projects designed to promote the skills of children and young people⁸¹ and their integration into social, political and cultural life.

Honorary functions and voluntary work play an important part in popular sport. The Confederation therefore promotes honorary and voluntary work through the measures for the future that are set out as part of the youth and sport promotion programme⁸², as well as the recreational sports concept²⁸ and the competitive sports concept²⁹.

Goal 8.2

Gender equality is respected in both professional and private life, and women are assured of full and effective participation in decision-making at all economic, political and public levels. Unpaid care work is shared more equally between women and men.

Federal Council action to achieve this goal: To help parents to reconcile work and family life, the stimulus programme for supplementary childcare 2015–19⁸³ is creating additional needs-based daycare places. In future, the Confederation also plans to subsidise the efforts of the cantons, communes and possibly also employers to expand available childcare⁸⁴. In addition, the Confederation runs an online information platform⁸⁵ as a resource about the instruments that have been developed at cantonal level. Through its Action Plan for Support and Respite of Relatives Providing Care⁸⁶ the Confederation is also endeavouring to encourage a more equitable gender distribution in unpaid care, nursing and household duties for children and adults.

To increase the proportion of women in management positions, the revision of company law⁸⁷ includes provisions stating that men and women should each account for at least 30 per cent of seats on the boards of directors of economically significant listed companies. Furthermore, each gender should account for at least 20 per cent of these companies' executive boards. The Confederation has also set a corresponding 30 per cent target for both men and women in the top management bodies of government-owned companies and institutions. This must be achieved by 2020, and progress will be reviewed annually. The Confederation is also committed to ensuring greater female participation in political life.

To enforce wage equality, the Confederation will conduct stricter checks on public invitations to tender to ensure that men and women are being treated equally under the Federal Public Procurement Act (PPA). Furthermore, in the future the Federal Council wishes to impose a legal obligation on employers to conduct regular wage analyses and have these audited by third parties. Information and training will also be expanded.

Where education and training are concerned, the Confederation is committed to gender equality and equal opportunities through the 'Equal Opportunity at Universities of Applied Sciences'⁸⁸ and 'Equal Opportunities for Women and Men at Swiss Universities/Gender Studies'⁸⁹ programmes. A successor programme covering all types of institutes of tertiary education is planned for the 2017–20 funding period.

Switzerland is also involved in promoting gender equality at the international level in order to influence normative and political processes.

Goal 8.3

All forms of violence against women and girls are greatly reduced.

Federal Council action to achieve this goal: By ratifying the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence⁹⁰ the Federal Council supports action against any form of violence against women, be it physical, psychological, or sexual, or stalking, forced marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM).

With its programme against forced marriage⁹¹ the Confederation is engaged in prevention as well as in support, care and protection for (potential) victims. Networks to combat forced marriage will be further extended in all regions of Switzerland up to 2017 by uniting experts in domestic violence and integration to work together and exchange their findings on a regular basis.

As part of the national programme on migration and health⁹², the Confederation is strengthening its commitment to combating female genital mutilation by engaging in prevention and awareness-raising work⁹³. The possible creation of a network to combat female genital mutilation is also being examined. The network would be established and supported by a variety of organisations. At the same time, gender equality and the prevention of gender-specific violence are being pursued in Switzerland's development cooperation efforts abroad.

Goal 8.4

Migrants are quickly and sustainably integrated into Switzerland. They have equal opportunities to participate in all aspects of life.

Federal Council action to achieve this goal: Promoting integration and combating discrimination are a challenge for society as a whole, requiring well-coordinated action on the ground. Switzerland's cantons thus run their own cantonal integration programmes⁹⁴ (CIP). These are based on strategic objectives set jointly by the Confederation and the cantons, and are financed by them on a 50:50 basis. In addition, the Confederation runs its own programmes and projects of national importance⁹⁵ (PPNI), which are supra-regional in nature. These provide support for innovative projects which may subsequently be adopted into CIP structures. Furthermore, with its national programme on migration and health⁹² the Confederation is committed to improving health literacy among the migrant population, and adjusting the healthcare system in accordance with their needs. In parallel with its implementation of integration programmes, the Confederation also supports the dialogue on integration that is being conducted within the Tripartite Agglomeration Conference⁹⁶ (TAC). The TAC ensures that the debate on integration policy

is conducted at all federal levels with the relevant government and non-governmental organisations and institutions.

At the international level, through the Global Programme Migration and Development⁹⁷, the Confederation is committed to regular and safe migration, decent working conditions, and respect for the human rights of migrants.

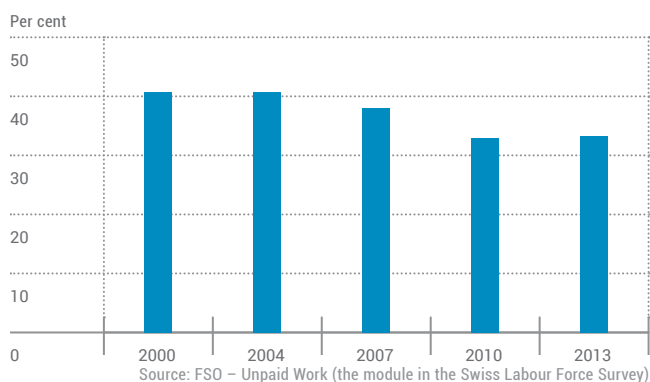
Goal 8.5

People with disabilities are socially, economically and politically integrated in all aspects of life.

Federal Council action to achieve this goal: The Confederation is committed to the equal treatment of people with disabilities in all aspects of life. The development of a national policy on disability⁹⁸ is intended to ensure that different policy areas at federal and cantonal level are better coordinated in the interests of people with disabilities, and are geared to implementing the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities⁹⁹. The Convention, which has been ratified by Switzerland, is an international undertaking comprehensively to safeguard the rights of people with disabilities. The effect of the Disability Discrimination Act¹⁰⁰ (DDA), which entered into force in 2004, was evaluated as a basis for drafting the national policy on disability.

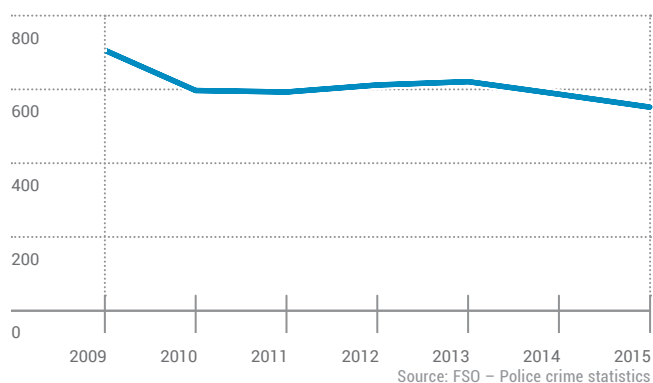
VOLUNTARY WORK

Share of persons who do voluntary work of the permanent resident population aged 15 and over



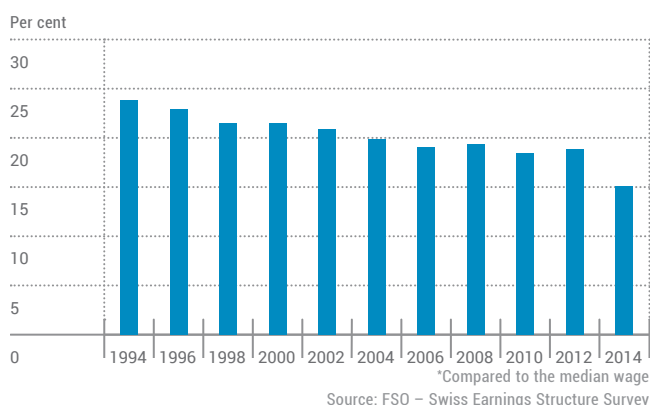
NUMBER OF FEMALE VICTIMS OF SERIOUS VIOLENCE

Number of cases known to the police



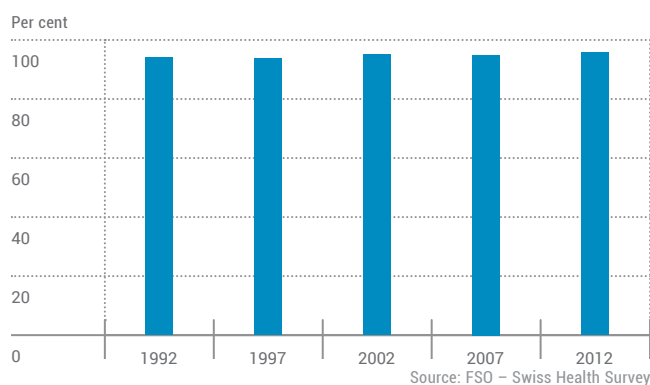
GENDER WAGE GAP

Wage gap* between women and men as a percentage of men's monthly gross wage, private sector



PERSONS HAVING AT LEAST ONE PERSON OF TRUST

Number of people who say that they are able to talk to one or several persons of trust about very personal problems at any time



Goal 8.6

Discriminatory barriers and structures have been dismantled, and victims of racial discrimination receive support and advice.

Federal Council action to achieve this goal: The Confederation employs prevention measures in its commitment to combating all forms of direct and indirect racial discrimination. The Cantonal Integration Programmes⁹⁴ (CIP) plan to establish professional support and advice services for the victims of racial discrimination where they live, and in all aspects of life. Through the CIP, work is also ongoing to dismantle discriminatory barriers in the mesh of public-sector rules and regulations, and to make institutions more open. Furthermore, the Confederation has joined forces with the cantons and communes to draw up an action plan to improve conditions for travelling populations and to promote the culture of the Jeni, Sinti/Manouche and Roma peoples¹⁰¹.

Goal 8.7

There is a high level of social cohesion and cultural diversity in local communities and neighbourhoods.

Federal Council action to achieve this goal: With increasing pluralisation and growing fears of social inequality within the population, it has become increasingly important to coordinate spatial development with social processes. The community cohesion project¹⁰² has therefore been designed on the basis of experience gained in the two pilot phases of the Projects urbains programme. It supports towns/cities and communes with projects for sustainable neighbourhood development in areas under particular pressure. The improvements in quality of life in agglomerations, as well as the locational appeal of urban spaces that result from this social approach to space, are important for the development of the country as a whole. The programme incorporates objectives for spatial development, integration policy, the promotion of housing and efforts to combat discrimination, and supports their efficient and sustainable implementation.

Goal 8.8

The proportion of low-cost housing is preserved or expanded, especially in highly sought-after areas; the homes in question are easily accessible to disadvantaged groups.

Federal Council action to achieve this goal: The Confederation is committed to ensuring the appropriate availability of housing for all sections of the population, and to avoiding crowding-out and social segregation. The sustainable spatial development pilot scheme for 2014–18²⁰ provides incentives to create a sufficient, needs-based supply of housing. It is intended in particular to support low-cost housing construction that is family-friendly or appropriate for the needs of

senior citizens. The Confederation's housing research programme¹⁹ provides further basic principles for improving the supply of housing and the residential environment, and improving market transparency. With its housing evaluation scheme, it also offers planners, property developers, authorities and other experts a tool for managing the current challenges involved in housing construction.

4.2.9.

Action area 9 – Health

Long-term vision

The population enjoys a high quality of life, and people are able to live and to age healthily. Healthy living conditions encourage a good sense of mental and physical well-being. Human exposure to harmful factors is negligible. The population is well informed and educated about health issues.

Each individual has access to high-quality, patient-focused healthcare. Medical intervention is conducted only where its necessity and benefits are proven. A well-coordinated network of government and non-governmental organisations offers perfectly dovetailed services from prevention and health promotion through to treatment, nursing, rehabilitation from illnesses and accidents, and palliative care. Healthcare costs are affordable for all population groups.

Key medium-term challenges up to 2030

As part of the 2030 Agenda, the international community identified the following goal (SDG):

- Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

This poses the following key challenges for Switzerland:

- Measured in terms of life-expectancy and mortality rates, the Swiss population has never been in better health. People still face many risks to their health, however. Here, factors such as a lack of education or low incomes, in particular, have a negative impact on public health. Global trends such as travel, market globalisation and antibiotic resistance all favour the incidence and spread of communicable diseases. Furthermore, we are seeing a rise in mental health issues, for example as a result of greater stress in the workplace or related unhealthy working conditions.

● In the past, healthcare has been focused primarily on treatment, i.e. curative medicine. In the future, greater emphasis must be placed on preventing illness and promoting health. A comprehensive policy on health is required which draws attention to the correlation between a person's state of health, on the one hand, and its determinants – level of education, environment, dietary habits, exercise and mobility patterns, as well as social and gender-specific differences or migration backgrounds – on the other. It is vital that public health be encouraged on the same terms for all, that social cohesion be strengthened, that the best possible conditions be created to enable the population to engage regularly in sport and exercise, and that better protection against threats to health be provided, such as easier access to vaccinations, prevention and efforts to combat communicable diseases.

● In view of demographic shifts, the healthcare system must be aligned as closely as possible with the challenges to come, and both its funding and sufficient numbers of well-qualified healthcare professionals secured for the long term. At the same time, new developments in medicine are continually expanding the possibilities of diagnostics and treatment. Here, care must be taken to avoid over-medicalisation.

Federal Council goals up to 2030, and action towards their achievement between 2016 and 2019

Goal 9.1

The growing burden of illness caused by non-communicable and mental conditions is contained, and early deaths reduced.

Federal Council action to achieve this goal: Non-communicable diseases are the largest cause of death in the world today. The national strategy for the prevention of non-communicable diseases (NCD strategy)¹⁰³ is intended to improve the health literacy of the population and to create an environment that makes it easier to adopt healthier behaviours. It shows ways in which five of the major NCDs – cancer, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, chronic respiratory diseases and musculoskeletal disorders – can be prevented or delayed, and their consequences mitigated.

Mental disorders are widespread. Indeed, they are among the most common and debilitating conditions. As part of its 'Health 2020'¹⁰⁴ health policy priorities, the Confederation is endeavouring to foster good mental health and to improve the prevention and early detection of mental illness, to reduce the number of sufferers. Particular attention is to be paid here to prevent mental health issues resulting in exclusion from the labour market. Efforts to promote a comprehensive policy on health should also include closer cooperation between federal agencies on health-related domestic and foreign policy activities.

By implementing the Swiss Health Foreign Policy¹⁰⁵ (SHFP), the Confederation also helps to improve health around the world. Under the aegis of the World Health Organization, it supports initiatives such as the establishment of global funding mechanism to fund research and development to identify new medicines for conditions which primarily affect poor populations in developing and threshold countries.

Goal 9.2

The proportion of the resident population which does not take enough exercise is 10% lower than in 2015.

Federal Council action to achieve this goal: Through the national diet and exercise programme¹⁰⁶ (NDEP), the Confederation is committed to promoting a healthy lifestyle with a balanced diet and sufficient exercise. The aim is a lasting effort to promote quality of life by strengthening personal responsibility, ensuring food security and promoting voluntary action on the part of businesses.

Furthermore, through its youth and sport⁸² promotion programme, sport for adults and the sustainable spatial development 2014–18²⁰ pilot scheme, the Confederation is helping to encourage sport and exercise to increase the proportion of the resident population of Switzerland that meets the government's recommendations for exercise. This is intended to help young people make more out of their potential, to reduce their susceptibility to illness and to promote their physical, mental and social development.

Goal 9.3

A smaller proportion of the population suffers from substance abuse and other addictions. Those who are dependent receive the help and treatment they need.

Federal Council action to achieve this goal: The individual and their environment, their circumstances and their influence over their own living conditions are crucial to dealing with the subject of addiction. For this reason, strengthening people's health resources and potential are key concerns of the national strategy on addiction¹⁰⁷. This is designed to prevent people developing problematic levels of consumption which can lead to dependency, and to providing those at risk with support at an early stage. Another of the strategy's areas of emphasis is to stand in solidarity with those who become ill or who are at risk, and to make sure they receive help and support.

Through its involvement in international organisations as part of its Swiss Health Foreign Policy¹⁰⁵, Switzerland also represents this policy at the international level.

Goal 9.4

People suffering chronic illnesses receive the support and treatment they need.

Federal Council action to achieve this goal: Changing living and working conditions, demographic shifts, medical and technical progress and changing health behaviours mean that there are increasing numbers of patients with chronic communicable and non-communicable diseases. As part of the health policy priorities laid down in the Federal Council's 'Health 2020' programme¹⁰⁴, the Confederation and the cantons are working to improve the health-related quality of life and coordination and cooperation in healthcare provision, and to reduce the amount of care required by those with chronic illnesses.

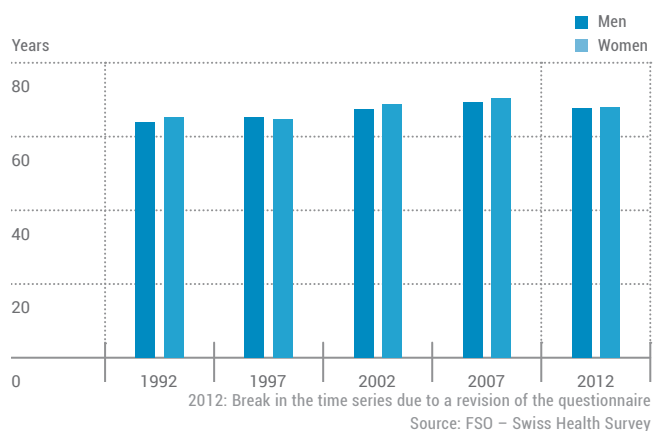
Goal 9.5

Switzerland maintains a high level of health protection and continues to combat communicable diseases effectively.

Federal Council action to achieve this goal: In cooperation with the cantons, international health authorities and other partners, the Confederation is committed to combating communicable diseases that present a threat to public health in Switzerland. Prevention and control strategies include precautions to protect public health against naturally occurring pathogens and those released accidentally or deliberately into the environment, to identify risks at an early stage and to contain the effects of outbreaks and epidemics of communicable diseases in Switzerland. In addition, protection against chemicals that damage health and the environment, radiation and other environmental pollution will be upheld, and the

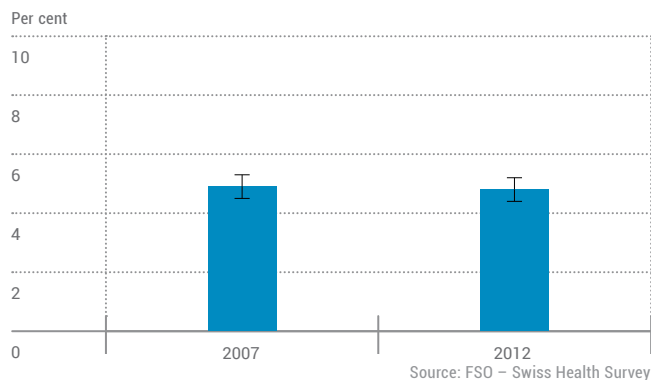
LIFE EXPECTANCY IN GOOD HEALTH

Life expectancy at birth



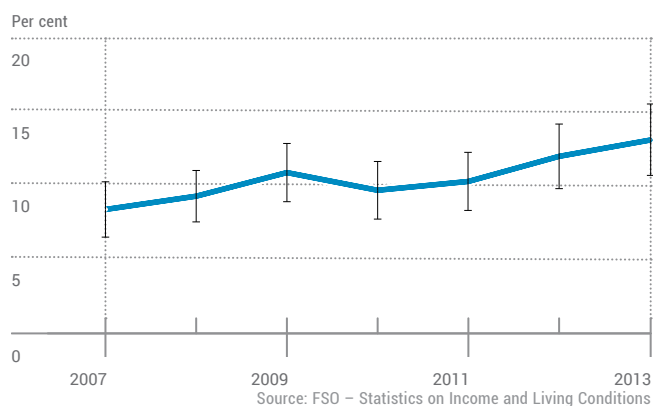
RISKY ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION

Share of the population aged 15 and over living in private households with chronic consumption at medium or high risk



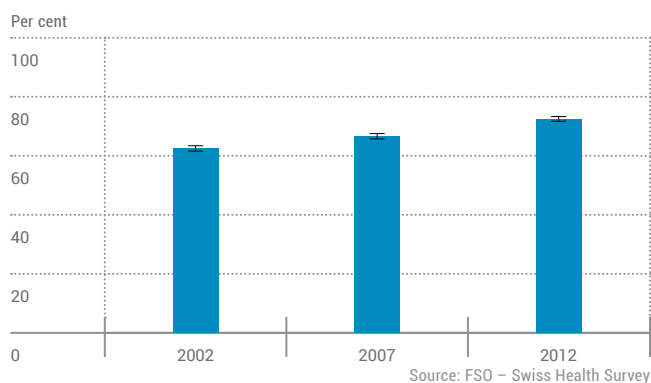
FOREGOING CARE FOR FINANCIAL REASONS

Share of the population aged 16 and over living in private households, at risk of poverty, who forego medical or dental consultations



HEALTH-RELEVANT BEHAVIOUR: PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Share of persons who engage in physical activity during their leisure time in line with the latest recommendations



long-term impact of harmful environmental effects will be monitored using appropriate mechanisms.

Through its involvement in the Global Health Security Agenda¹⁰⁸ and in the World Health Organization (WHO), the Confederation is also helping to speed up the fight against communicable diseases at the global level.

Goal 9.6

The resident population of Switzerland is well informed and educated about health issues.

Federal Council action to achieve this goal: 'Health literacy' is the ability of the individual to make decisions in everyday life that have a positive effect on their own health and that of others. This is very important in enabling people to navigate more efficiently through the healthcare system, prevent illness more effectively, and take greater care of their health. Strengthening the health literacy and independent responsibility of the population is therefore a key aspect of the Federal Council's 'Health 2020'¹⁰⁴ health policy priorities. The capacity of providers (the healthcare system, education system, employers and market) to create frameworks which promote good health must also be boosted.

Goal 9.7

There are sufficient well-qualified healthcare professionals to ensure a high quality of healthcare provision.

Federal Council action to achieve this goal: Healthcare professionals are in short supply in Switzerland, as they are world-wide. That is why the Confederation is supporting the creation of suitable basic and further training opportunities as part of its 'Health 2020'¹⁰⁴ health policy priorities. The number of basic and further training places at universities and other institutions is to be brought into line with current needs. While respecting the autonomy of institutes of tertiary education to set their own curricula, the content of these courses should increasingly be geared to integrated healthcare provision. Greater attention should be paid to training in public health in view of the increase in demand for these experts that is expected to come from public administrations and from profit and non-profit organisations. At the same time, Switzerland is implementing the WHO's code of conduct for the international recruitment of healthcare professionals.



5.

INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

5.1.

INTRODUCTION

Switzerland is heavily committed to sustainable development around the world through its foreign policy, foreign economic policy, and international cooperation. The key points of focus here are the alleviation of poverty and global risks, relieving need, the protection and sustainable use of natural resources, promoting peace and inclusive societies, and respect for human rights. The Confederation is engaged in transforming the economy and society so that both comply with planetary tolerance limits and so that the well-being of current and future generations can be assured. In addition to its domestic policy efforts, in this way it also makes a specific contribution at the international level to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) in particular.

This section provides an overview of the Confederation's areas of foreign policy focus where sustainable development is concerned. A detailed presentation of Switzerland's international engagement can be found in the Dispatch on international cooperation, in the Foreign Policy Report (Aussenpolitischer Bericht) and in reporting on sectoral policies.

5.2.

FOREIGN POLICY INSTRUMENTS

When deploying its instruments of international cooperation (IC), and in its foreign policies for individual sectors, the Confederation takes care to adhere to a coherent sustainable development policy. This means structuring and coordinating the different areas of foreign policy so that they are as non-contradictory as possible and actively encourage synergies. The same applies to coordination between foreign and domestic policy.

Via its Dispatch on international cooperation for 2017–20¹⁰⁹, which is based on the 2030 Agenda as well as other points of reference, the Federal Council applies for framework financing facilities and determines the instruments that will be used to implement the SDG internationally as part of IC activities. This applies in particular to humanitarian aid, technical cooperation and financial aid to developing countries, to economic and trade policy measures as part of development cooperation, transition cooperation activities in the states of Eastern Europe and Central Asia, as well as action to promote peace and human security. Particular attention is paid here to the ever-faster, mutually reinforcing dynamics between poverty, the protection of natural resources, global risks, conflicts and gender equality as conditions for sustainable development policy. With its framework financing facility for the global environment, the Confederation also contributes to several selected multilateral funds (specifically the Global Environment Facility GEF¹¹⁰), which support the efforts of developing countries in favour of the global environment, and the implementation of international environmental conventions.

Under the aegis of its sectoral foreign policies, as well as international processes and initiatives, the Confederation is involved in programmes and contributions to political dialogue at partner country level or on the international stage to manage global risks and to implement the 2030 Agenda. This work specifically covers foreign policies on the environment, health, foreign trade, business and finance, as well as agriculture and migration.

5.3.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SDG AT INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

The 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals it contains create an international framework for action for the challenges which require a joint response with other states and actors. The contributions that the Confederation makes via its international cooperation activities and its sectoral foreign policies are described below.

End poverty in all its forms everywhere (SDG1) and reduce inequality within and among countries (SDG10)

The fight against poverty remains one of the areas of emphasis of the Confederation's bilateral and multilateral cooperation. Particular attention is paid here to the situation of fragile states, the world's poorest countries, and support for more advanced developing countries. The Confederation supports the efforts of its partner countries' governments to alleviate poverty and achieve sustainable development, and focuses on improving the situation of particularly disadvantaged and vulnerable people.

It is also active at the international level in promoting a coherent and constructive approach to migratory flows. It is strengthening this approach by playing an active part in the Global Forum for Migration and Development¹¹¹, as well as in the UN's High-Level Political Forum (HLPF). Through its migration foreign policy, the Confederation supports programmes and measures in countries of origin and transit, with an emphasis on safe and regular migration, decent working conditions and respect for the human rights of migrants. Furthermore, aid services and protection for refugees and displaced persons in humanitarian crises form part of the core remit of Swiss Humanitarian Aid, which concentrates on intervention in regions of origin and in countries of first refuge.

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture (SDG2)

The Confederation supports global food security and encourages sustainable food and nutrition systems, as well as the preservation of ecosystems. Through its Global Programme Food Security⁶², as well as targeted bilateral and multilateral action, the Confederation aims to influence the global framework, strengthen institutions, increase the yields of smallholder farmers' production systems in a sustainable way, secure land rights and improve food security. It is also fostering new directions in agricultural research and advice, and is helping smallholder farmers to husband natural resources, to cope with social and economic change, to adapt to the effects of climate change, to secure land rights and to gain better access to markets. As part of the 10-Year Framework for Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production⁶¹ (10YFP) the Confederation is also involved in a global multi-stakeholder programme to promote sustainable systems of food and nutrition. It is also an advocate of ecosystem services, the preservation of biodiversity in agriculture, as well as the associated conventions and regulations, so that seeds that are adapted to their environment remain available in future too.

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages (SDG3)

By implementing the Swiss Health Foreign Policy¹⁰⁵ (SHFP), the Confederation also helps to improve health around the world. As part of its development cooperation work, it supports initiatives such as the establishment of global mechanisms to fund research and development aimed at identifying new medicines for conditions which primarily affect poor populations in developing and threshold countries. Through its commitment to the Global Health Security Agenda¹⁰⁸, it advances more effective ways of combating communicable diseases. It is also involved in the international drugs debate, with an emphasis on the health policy aspects (four-pillar policy) and human rights, and takes a stance against the death penalty. Furthermore, the Confederation's commitment to the sustainable handling of dangerous chemicals and waste is an important contribution to the protection of health around the world.

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all (SDG4)

Under its policy to promote international cooperation on education, the Confederation is an advocate of the right of all to a good basic education. It is also involved in implementing the UNESCO Education 2030 Framework for Action¹¹², and places particular emphasis on vocational education and

training. Where general schooling is concerned, the Confederation brings its many years of experience to bear in promoting political education.

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls (SDG5)

Gender equality is both a strategic objective and a horizontal issue in foreign policy and international cooperation. While respecting the differing roles and needs of women and men, the Confederation is committed to gender equality in social, economic and political participation. This work also includes preventing gender-specific violence, and measures to ensure that women and men have an equal voice in political and economic processes. In its international cooperation activities, Switzerland is working towards respect for both the corresponding laws in its partner countries, as well as international norms and regulations, while also advocating due consideration for gender-specific risks. Indeed, gender aspects are considered as an integral part of the planning of international cooperation activities.

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all (SDG6)

Through programmes such as the Global Water Initiative¹¹³ and instruments such as the UNECE Helsinki Convention of 1992 and the Convention on Chemicals and Biodiversity, the Confederation is committed to hygiene, promoting access to drinking water, and the right to water and sanitation. It also supports comprehensive, integrated water management in individual water catchment areas that also protects water-related ecosystems. This means that a greater quantity and higher quality of water is available for agricultural, industrial and household uses. In this way, the Confederation also helps to reduce global water conflicts, to improve water security and to prevent water-related disasters. Furthermore, it is engaged in holistic approaches to resolving challenges in water catchment areas that span international borders. Projects to improve water and waste water management in cities are another focus area in this field.

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all (SDG8)

The Confederation is engaged on several fronts in producing a set of sustainable international economic regulations which also include developing countries. Here, efforts are made to achieve coherence between foreign economic policy instruments such as bilateral free trade and investment agreements, and the objectives of sustainable development. Eco-

nomie development cooperation also improves the operating framework for local and international enterprises. Care is taken here to craft sustainable, inclusive growth that also factors in environmental and economic aspects. In addition, the Confederation supports non-legally-binding measures on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) within the framework set out in the Federal Council's CSR position paper¹ and is also drawing up a National Action Plan to implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights², thereby playing its part in the protection of human rights around the world. Furthermore, it is committed to the more efficient implementation of the OECD's Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises by strengthening National Contact Points (NCP). Internationally, it supports initiatives for sustainable business practices, such as the UN Global Compact¹¹⁴, and is committed to ILO standards which promote dignified work, and especially for the credible application of the Organization's core labour standards.

Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation (SDG9)

The Confederation supports the availability of basic services, more efficient and ecological energy service providers, and properly functioning water and waste water infrastructures. It promotes initiatives for inclusive and sustainable industrialisation which ensure that developing countries are increasingly included in the profitable stages of international value chains, and that the resulting gains benefit a broad section of the population. Energy and resource-efficient production is another area of focus.

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable (SDG11)

The Confederation is working towards ensuring that cities and other settlements in developing countries provide a safe living environment for all sections of the population, as well as on measures to improve infrastructures and town planning in a way that shrinks their environmental footprint. Such environmental improvements often also strengthen these areas' resilience in the face of disasters such as extreme weather events. Here, it is crucial that the best possible use is made of space, and that public utility providers are made more robust by investment and organisational change (corporate development).

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns (SDG12)

The Confederation is actively involved in international initiatives and programmes supporting the transition of the world's

economies and societies towards sustainable patterns of consumption and production, i.e. a green economy. These include undertakings such as the 10-Year Framework for Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP)⁶¹, the Green Growth Knowledge Platform (GGKP) and the International Resource Panel (IRP). Within these constructs, the Confederation focuses on a number of different areas: sustainable food and nutrition systems, sustainable public procurement, sustainable value chains and standards for agricultural production, integrated and sustainable water usage, international regimes governing chemicals and waste, and sustainability reporting. As part of its work to implement the recommendations of the background report on commodities³, Switzerland – as an important commodity trading centre – is committed to aspects such as improved governance and sustainability along value chains, as well as to respect for human rights at the extraction and trading stages.

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts (SDG13) and ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all (SDG7)

The UN Climate Change Conference in Paris at the end of 2015 adopted a long-term legally binding agreement on climate change for the post-2020 period. It is equally binding on all UN member states in accordance with their climate responsibility and climate capacity. In addition, Switzerland advocates a further tightening of climate rules and regulations by 2020. Via the Global Programme Climate Change¹¹⁵, the Global Environment Facility (GEF)¹¹⁰ and the Green Climate Fund (GCF)¹¹⁶, the Confederation supports the implementation of climate policy in the form of measures to cut emissions, adapt to climate change and make the transformation to sustainable, poverty-reducing energy generation, infrastructure and agriculture. Exchange with foreign governments on governance and institutional issues related to the promotion of resource-efficiency and renewable energies ('cleantech') is being stepped up, with a particular emphasis on knowledge transfer and sharing good examples. Meanwhile, a sustainable supply of energy will be achieved by investment in renovating existing or constructing new power generation facilities, among other measures.

Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development (SDG14)

Via the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Switzerland is committed to action against pollution as a result of waste and micro plastics, and its impact on marine areas.

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss (SDG15)

The Confederation is committed to implementing the Global Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020⁷ and achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets for 2020. It is stepping up its international engagement in accordance with the Swiss Biodiversity Strategy⁵⁴, and is working to integrate biodiversity into relevant policies and strategies, as well as towards greater coherence and the use of synergies. It also intends to fulfil its international biodiversity funding commitments.

The Confederation is active in establishing clear international rules and frameworks for sustainable forest management. It is also committed to the implementation on the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, and to taking greater care of soil as a resource.

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels (SDG16)

At both the international level and in its own legislation, the Confederation supports the introduction and implementability of national and international norms, and standards to protect human rights. Action on peace promotion and human security targets the source of armed violence and human rights violations, as well as their impacts on political and social processes. While addressing these issues, the highest priority is the protection of the individual. Specifically, action includes mediation, peace processes, support for democratic processes, dealing with the past, bomb clearance and arms control, protection for civilians in conflict situations and displaced persons, as well as the fight against human trafficking. In fragile and conflict-affected contexts, which are also some of the poorest areas in the world, international cooperation also tackles the root of conflict and violence, i.e. factors such as social and political exclusion or discrimination. It supports the establishment of legitimate state institutions which serve society at large. These tasks include the fundamental duties of the state such as ensuring the personal security of the individual, access to justice, and basic services. The Confederation is also engaged in ensuring that multilateral organisations should play an active role in overcoming conflicts and fragile situations.

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development (SDG17)

The Confederation supports the comprehensive financing and implementation framework that was adopted by all UN states at the Third International Conference on Financing for Development: the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA). Key importance is attached to domestic resource mobilisation as the primary source of financing for sustainable development in developing and threshold countries, as well as to its efficient and fair use. In this way, the Confederation boosts its support for the establishment of taxation systems and efficient financial administrations in developing countries. It is also committed to a coordinated international effort to eliminate the causes of unfair and illegal financial flows, notably based on international standards issued by recognised bodies. Domestically, it implements the relevant international standards for instance for combating corruption and money laundering, as well as those that apply to cross-border tax issues. Through its asset recovery programme, it also helps to ensure that funds which enter Switzerland illegally can be returned to their countries of origin.

The Confederation's international cooperation work¹⁰⁹ provides it with mechanisms which allow it to promote private investment in countries of the South and East. These include the Swiss Investment Fund for Emerging Markets (SIFEM) and the Swiss Capacity Building Facility (SCBF), which is a public-private development partnership to promote sustainable financial products and services in the world's poorest countries. The Confederation also supports the implementation of the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems.

Despite cost-saving measures, the Confederation has still set a target of 0.5 per cent of gross domestic product to be dedicated to international cooperation. Whether or not this can actually be achieved depends on how economic activity develops, as well as other components of development aid. This funding is to be deployed in the poorest countries, in conflict-affected contexts and fragile states, as well as in middle-income countries. Efforts to improve the effectiveness and transparency of public development aid funding will also be continued.

To reduce the dependence of recipient countries on this aid, Switzerland attaches particular importance to technical cooperation, as well as to technology and knowledge transfer. With its Cleaner Production Centres (CPC), it supports local skills acquisition, and improves the underlying conditions for environmentally friendly production methods.

5.4.

SHAPING GLOBAL GOVERNANCE

The Confederation is committed to establishing a comprehensive, coherent, effective and efficient framework for governance. Based among other things on the principles of the rule of law, accountability, transparency and participation, this framework should facilitate sustainable development at all levels, from global to local. At the global level, the Confederation is involved in the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) alongside all other countries and all relevant stakeholder representatives. Accordingly, it will participate in the planned periodic reporting and implementation monitoring for the Sustainable Development Goals, provide specific input on how the basis of data can be improved, and help developing countries to build their national capacity to draft national strategies for sustainable development and to track their implementation. Furthermore, the Confederation is committed to strengthening governance in specific sectors.

In all of its bilateral development cooperation activities, the Confederation observes international practice by supporting national development plans. In this way, it combines sustainable development agendas with those of effective development.



6.

THE CONFEDERATION AS A MODEL

Sustainable development cannot just be demanded. It must also be demonstrated. The Confederation therefore consistently applies the principles of sustainable development to its own activities. It already fulfils its responsibilities in particular with regard to workplace ecology, public procurement, property management and human resources, and in its capacity as the owner of state-run companies. Examples of its areas of activity are presented below.

6.1.

RESOURCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT (RUMBA)

Since its launch in 1999, the Confederation's RUMBA resource and environmental management¹¹⁸ programme has systematically been reducing the operational and product-related environmental impact of the Federal Administration. Under the programme, government Departments, Parliamentary Services, the Federal Public Prosecutor's Office and the Swiss Federal Supreme Court in Lucerne cut environmental impact per full-time equivalent by 23.1 per cent between 2006 and 2014. Technical building-related measures and targeted awareness-raising campaigns about staff behaviours were particularly significant factors in this positive result.

Despite this progress, there is potential to reduce this environmental impact still further, in particular where electricity and heating, and mobility, are concerned. In 2016 the Federal Council will decide on the future of RUMBA. The aim is to turn

the programme into a permanent part of the Federal Administration's remit. Factoring in the NMM New Management Model for the Federal Administration, new goals for the 2017–20 target period will be examined, the goal-setting process optimised and harmonised, and consideration given to adapting organisational structures towards more centralised data collection and controlling.

In the medium term, further options for further step-by-step, modular development should be looked into. These might include extending the programme to other organisational units, broadening it to cover impacts beyond purely governmental tasks, the voluntary introduction of certified environmental management systems, and ways and means of reporting on sustainability.

6.2.

THE CONFEDERATION: EXEMPLARY IN ENERGY

The Confederation itself is responsible for two per cent of aggregate domestic energy consumption. It fulfils its responsibility by reducing and optimising the energy used by the civilian Federal Administration, the Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sports DDPS, and the entire domain of the Swiss Federal Institutes of Technology (ETH Zurich / EPFL Lausanne), as well as strategic government-run companies such as Swiss Post, Swiss Federal Railways, Skyguide and Swisscom as part of its 'The Confederation: exem-

play in energy' programme¹¹⁹. These organisations signed the corresponding declaration of intent in November 2014.

The intention is to take appropriate action to achieve a 25 per cent increase in energy efficiency between the base year of 2006 and 2020. To make this possible, all of the actors concerned adopted an action plan setting out 39 shared action points for buildings and renewable energies, mobility, data centres and green IT. Annual monitoring will track the impact that implementing these measures has, and the public will be informed transparently in an annual report.

6.3.

PUBLIC PROCUREMENT BY THE CONFEDERATION

In its public procurement of goods (products, services, construction), the Confederation endeavours to ensure that they satisfy high economic, environmental and social requirements throughout their life cycles. It sets an example with its own procurement activities, by purchasing products and constructing buildings that are economical, environmentally compatible and healthy, and are produced or built by means that are as socially responsible as possible.

Recommendations on sustainable procurement practices¹²⁰ for the Confederation's purchasing units were last updated by the Federal Procurement Conference FPC in the summer of 2015. In addition, in 2013 the sustainable procurement monitoring scheme was launched as part of the Confederation's procurement controlling activities.

The Confederation is currently looking into setting up a national platform for sustainable public procurement. The aim of this platform is to promote sustainable public procurement and to ensure that information is shared between the Confederation, the cantons and, where possible, the communes.

6.4.

SUSTAINABLE PROPERTY MANAGEMENT ON THE PART OF THE CONFEDERATION

At essentially all phases of construction and operation, federal construction and property services (BLO) manage the Confederation's buildings in accordance with the principles of sustainable development. The Ordinance on Federal Real Estate Management and Logistics (REMFLÖ) has been amended accordingly and entered into force on 1 January 2016. The Ordinance is fleshed out by directives from the Federal Department of Finance FDF on sustainable property management, in the form of guidelines that are binding on the BLO. These in turn are supported by the recommendations of the KBOB coordination group for construction and property services, and the IPB interest group consisting of private professional building owners.

6.5.

ACTION AREAS FOR THE FUTURE

The action that the Confederation takes in its model role should be enhanced, and expanded where this is possible and meaningful. In 2016, a systematic status report must be prepared on how the Confederation fulfils its corporate social responsibility (CSR)¹ obligations as an employer, purchaser, investor and owner of state-run enterprises. This overview should also pinpoint any need for action in the future, and supply the Federal Council with proposals on how to extend and further improve the effectiveness of the measures that are already in place at federal level.



MONITORING AND REPORTING

7.1.

MONITORING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN SWITZERLAND

To weigh up interests and to make political decisions, we need to know where we stand on the key opportunity and deficit parameters in relation to sustainable development. Measuring sustainable development has thus become an increasingly important instrument of implementation.

In fact, Switzerland has had a comprehensive sustainable development monitoring system – MONET – in place since 2003. Its 75 or so regularly updated indicators give an overall picture. This system takes a holistic approach which measures the quality of life of the present generation, as well as fairness of distribution geographically and over time. It observes whether – and in what areas – Switzerland is on the path to sustainable development. The indicators are not selected on the basis of political targets. Instead, they are founded on a consistent methodological concept comprising a reference framework and a systemic structure. This ensures MONET's independence, transparency and completeness.

MONET is an evolving system, in which indicators are revised as new focal points and framework conditions for sustainable development emerge. With this in mind, the system's reference framework was amended to include the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and those of the 2030 Agenda. The current legislative period will bring further expansion to allow the MONET system to measure the 2030 Agenda target framework that has been amended to fit Switzerland. It will

thus lay the foundation for both national and international reporting.

A selection of MONET indicators is given in the present Strategy in reference to the visions and objectives of the Action Plan. Further information is available to a wider audience in the form of key indicators, pocket statistics and the 'Cockpit' web application for the action areas of this Sustainable Development Strategy.

7.2.

MONITORING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AT THE GLOBAL LEVEL

At the global level, the progress and goals achieved by the 2030 Agenda are measured in terms of a list of international key indicators, which are set by the UN Statistical Commission and are identical for all countries. UN member states regularly monitor developments in the key indicators. This data is then published in an annual international progress report on the Sustainable Development Goals. This enables action areas around the world to be identified, and progress to be compared between countries.

7.3.

REPORTING

The implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy is evaluated regularly to supply information for its eventual revision. The MONET indicator system also has an important role to play in this respect. Information on target attainment and the implementation of measures under the Action Plan is regularly updated and published, and the Federal Council must produce a report on the implementation of the Strategy by the end of 2018. This will comprise an evaluation, as well as a proposal for the next generation of the Strategy for the 2020–23 legislative period. Furthermore, federal agencies are required to include sustainable development in their own periodic reports on items of business or areas covered by their sectoral policies.

At the international level, UN member states have agreed to present their progress in the form of country reports, which will be submitted to the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF). This meets under the aegis of the UN General Assembly and the UN Economic and Social Council ECOSOC (see Section 2.2). It offers opportunities for countries to share their different experiences, as well as for dialogue with relevant stakeholders.

Reporting on the basis of the 2030 Agenda is a challenge for all nations, and necessitates certain changes to the format and structure of national strategies. Switzerland shares its experience with other countries in Europe and also in the context of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). The aim is to achieve a reporting framework that accommodates the challenges that Switzerland faces while also meeting the requirements for the shared reporting of 2030 Agenda implementation work. This system must be designed to avoid overlaps while making the most of synergies between national and international reporting processes. Switzerland must submit its first national report to the HLPF by 2018.



8.

ORGANISATION WITHIN THE CONFEDERATION

8.1.

INTEGRATING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INTO EXISTING PLANNING AND POLICY MANAGEMENT PROCESSES

It is important to regard sustainable development not as an additional part of the Confederation's remit, but rather to integrate it as far as possible into the usual planning and policy management processes at the agency, departmental and Federal Council levels. The present Strategy and, at the broader level, the 2030 Agenda, provide an important reference framework for its integration into sectoral policies.

Political responsibility for the Strategy lies with the Federal Council. Its implementation, meanwhile, is a matter for the federal agencies concerned, which must ensure that the details are determined to reflect their particular areas of activity, that it is put into practice and that its measures are well coordinated. As is the case with provisions at constitutional, law and ordinance level, submissions to the Federal Council must be aligned with the Strategy, and the agencies must factor its principles into their planning and internal processes. In doing this, they must make use of synergies, ensure coherence between sectoral policies, and flag up any conflicting objectives.

Sustainable development should be achieved primarily by setting priorities and reallocating existing resources. The Strategy is to be implemented in the main via existing coordination and reconciliation mechanisms, and overlaps avoided.

8.1.1.

Coordination at the national level

The implementation of the Strategy in domestic policy is coordinated by the Interdepartmental Sustainable Development Committee (ISDC), which comprises representatives of all federal agencies whose activities are of relevance to sustainable development. The ISDC assumes the function of a coordination and discussion platform for sustainability-related activities and processes within the Federal Administration. It encourages cooperation between federal agencies, as well as the integration of sustainable development principles into sectoral policies. The federal agencies appoint their own representatives on the ISDC, but these must have the authority to represent their administrative unit with a great degree of commitment.

The ISDC is chaired by the Federal Office for Spatial Development ARE. As the competent specialist unit within the Confederation, it guarantees the consistency and effectiveness of work to implement the Sustainable Development Strategy, and also ensures communication and dialogue both within the Federal Administration and with external actors.

8.1.2.

Coordination at the international level

The interdepartmental 2030 Agenda Task Force coordinates international negotiations on the 2030 Agenda, and also handles coordination within the Federal Administration. It is composed of those federal agencies which deal at the sectoral policy or general level with sustainable development issues in foreign policy. As an information, coordination and discussion platform led by the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA, the Task Force guarantees Switzerland's foreign policy contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and its representation in the HLPF.

As a provisional body, the 2030 Agenda Task Force will be maintained for the 2016–17 transitional phase (see Section 8.1.4). The future form and role of this body will be determined during this period.

8.1.3.

Coordination between national and international levels

With the 2030 Agenda, coordination between domestic and foreign policy has gained a special level of meaning. Coordination between national and international levels is assured by means of regular exchange between the ISDC, the 2030 Agenda Task Force, and other bodies. While involving the sectoral federal agencies concerned, the competent units within the DETEC (ARE) and the FDFA (SDC) are responsible for the flow of information and for coordinating activities.

8.1.4.

Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The Confederation is committed both nationally and internationally to implementing the 2030 Agenda and to attaining its Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. This presents new challenges for the organisational structure and processes of the Federal Administration. During the transitional phase in 2016 and 2017, questions relating to institutional arrangements will be examined and modifications proposed where necessary. Particular attention must be paid here to coordinating national and international processes as effectively as possible. Building on existing structures, the aim is to arrive at an efficient process within the Confederation to implement the 2030 Agenda in domestic and foreign policy. Synergies should be created between national and international processes, and overlaps avoided. Initial work will also be done on what exactly the implementation of the SDG will entail.

The transitional phase will include the following programme of work:

- Status analysis of the extent to which the 2030 Agenda is already implemented in sectoral policies in Switzerland (gap analysis), and identification of future action areas with regard to the SDG;
- Clarification of arrangements, and the transfer of responsibility for the SDG to the federal agencies in charge of sectoral policy fields;
- Determination of the future process and internal structure within the Federal Administration that is needed for Switzerland to implement the 2030 Agenda;
- Clarification of the UN's requirements for international reporting as they apply to Switzerland, and for the production of Switzerland's first report to the HLPF on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;
- Expansion of the MONET system of indicators to ensure reporting to the UN and on the Sustainable Development Strategy;
- Determination of the way in which stakeholders outside the Federal Administration will participate in consultations and in the implementation partnerships for the 2030 Agenda, and of the way in which stakeholder contributions will be acknowledged.

This work will be managed by an internal coordination group set up for a fixed period. It will comprise representatives of both national and international levels. It will be led by the Federal Office for Spatial Development ARE and by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC. The group

will include representatives of the Federal Office for the Environment FOEN, the Federal Office of Public Health FOPH, the Federal Office for Agriculture FOAG, the Federal Statistical Office FSO, the FDFA Directorate of Political Affairs, and other interested federal agencies from the ISDC and the 2030 Agenda Task Force.

The coordination group will determine a joint programme of work, for which the competent federal agencies will provide the necessary funding and resources. It will consult all of the affected agencies and will encourage exchange with actors from outside the Federal Administration. At the end of the transitional phase, the Departments concerned will submit a report to the Federal Council on the status of implementation and on any action or amendments that may be required. They will also propose the way forward for Switzerland's implementation of the 2030 Agenda. This report must be submitted by January 2018.

8.1.5.

Funding implementation

The implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy will be funded via the budgets that have been approved for the individual federal agencies, which are responsible for incorporating the necessary financial resources into their financial planning. Should additional funding be required for measures in parallel with strategy implementation, it must be applied for as part of the normal budget process.

8.2.

INSTRUMENTS AND PROCESSES FOR INTEGRATING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INTO SECTORAL POLICIES

8.2.1.

Sustainability assessments

In the interests of the balanced inclusion of sustainable development criteria, and improving policy coherence between Confederation initiatives, it is very important to the Federal Council that interests are weighed up against each other and programmes optimised at an early stage, and that the decisions that have been taken are presented and explained transparently.

Sustainability assessments are a prospective means of evaluation and optimisation to analyse the social, economic and environmental impacts of the Confederation's political projects and initiatives at strategy, plan and programme or project level. The method centres on the systematic capture of an initiative's direct and indirect, desirable and undesirable effects. A logical and holistic estimate of impacts creates a transparent basis for decision-making.

The guidelines for Federal Council Dispatches (Dispatch Guidelines) recommend that sustainability assessments be conducted to estimate the expected impacts of specific initiatives. Guidelines for federal agencies describe how the methodology should be applied. The ARE helps the federal government's administrative units to conduct sustainability assessments.

These assessments overlap with other existing and planned evaluation tools. At legislative level, these primarily include regulatory impact assessments (RIA). Projects in the transport sector, meanwhile, must also be evaluated in terms of the NIBA guidelines for assessing railway transport projects and the NISTRA sustainability indicators for road infrastructure projects.

8.2.2.

Policy coherence for sustainable development

The preparation of Federal Council decisions in consultations with various offices or in interdepartmental working groups on specific themes is central to ensuring policy coherence at the federal level. These consultation and coordination processes examine the Confederation's initiatives in specific sectors to ensure that they are congruent with sustainable development. The task here is to make greater use of synergies between different policies, and to mitigate any conflicting aims and negative side-effects.

This task has become a priority issue in international discussions, such as those surrounding the 2030 Agenda. The Confederation's Foreign Policy Report for 2015 states that further work is planned to ensure better policy coherence. As part of this work, whenever foreign policy questions are raised, particularly relevant and current individual aspects or Federal Council decisions should also be discussed. The research and groundwork that is required to set up a systematic observation system for the various aspects of foreign policy, and the relevant monitoring instruments, is currently underway.

8.2.3.

Training

The integration of sustainable development into sectoral policies requires cross-sectoral exchange, as well as familiarity with the key sustainable development principles and their national and international frameworks and objectives. To this end, all administrative units encourage their staff to participate in further training courses and to share specific experience in the sustainable development domain.



COOPERATION WITH THE CANTONS AND COMMUNES

In an international comparison, Switzerland's political system is very decentralised, with the cantons and communes fulfilling an extremely important role. Factoring sustainable development principles into all levels of government is thus a key concern for the Confederation, and great importance is attached to vertical cooperation between the Confederation, cantons and communes. The important role of the subnational and local levels in implementing sustainable development was emphasised at the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in 2012. The cantons and communes are called upon to do their part in implementing the new international 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

Many cantons and communes are already using the Federal Council's Sustainable Development Strategy as a reference framework for their own activities. Decision-makers at all levels of government are called upon to reflect the Federal Council guidelines in their own, similar initiatives. These might be local or cantonal Agenda 21 programmes, sustainability strategies, legislative programmes, the use of monitoring, controlling and assessment instruments, or institutional safeguards to embed sustainable development more securely in governance structures. Sustainable development should not be regarded as an additional government task, but should be integrated as far as possible into normal planning and control processes.

Vertical integration via the Sustainable Development Forum, as a tried-and-tested platform for exchange and networking between different levels of government, is to be continued as part of a partnership with the Swiss Conference of Directors of Public Works, Planning and Environmental Protection (DPPE), the SSV association of Swiss cities and the SGV Swiss association of local authorities. The Confederation continues to foster regional and local sustainability processes and projects with technical and logistical support, as well as a comprehensive range of activities to network the actors concerned.

In addition, through its sustainable development promotion programme (Förderprogramm Nachhaltige Entwicklung), the Confederation supports specific initiatives which help to strengthen the sustainable development concept. It maintains a database of current sustainability projects in Switzerland and organises events to share knowledge and experience on good examples of processes, instruments and projects. It also encourages continued development in the methodology, and the more consistent use of sustainability assessment, as well as monitoring within the 'Cercle Indicateurs' network for the cantons and cities. Particular efforts are made to reinforce sustainability processes and projects at neighbourhood level.

Furthermore, in the current legislative period special attention will be given to closer cooperation with the cantons' specialist sustainability units and delegates as the Confederation's key partners. These bodies and individuals in turn serve as points of contact for the communes. To achieve this, a joint programme of work is to be adopted to cement sustainable development at the institutional level as an integral element of decision-making processes and policy priorities. One example of such work might be to draft guidelines for the implementation of the Confederation's Sustainable Development Strategy at the local level. Greater prominence should also be given to sustainability assessments of cantonal sectoral strategies, programmes and projects which receive Confederation funding. The law already provides for this in respect of cantonal implementation programmes for the New Regional Policy (NRP)¹⁴.

The Confederation encourages closer intercantonal cooperation on sustainable development, and supports the creation of the relevant structures, in the context of a conference of cantonal sustainability units and delegates, for example. In this regard the creation of regional platforms should also be examined.

Finally, the Confederation also organises and coordinates Switzerland's participation in the European Sustainable Development Week (ESDW), which was held for the first time across Europe in 2014, and runs each year from 30 May to 5 June. Cantons and communes, as well as other public and private-sector actors, are encouraged to organise and communicate projects in connection with ESDW.



10.

COOPERATION WITH CIVIL SOCIETY, BUSINESS AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

Sustainable development demands action from the whole of society. In addition to a concerted effort on the part of the three levels of government, this also requires close cooperation with private-sector business, non-governmental organisations, associations, and the scientific community. Sustainable development can only be implemented successfully if all levels do their part.

In the future, dialogue and cooperation on sustainable development will be heavily influenced by the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals, which will form the reference framework for sustainable development in Switzerland. The participatory processes to arrive at national and international sustainability policies will nonetheless be amalgamated into a single dialogue so that proper account can be taken of the expertise and interests of all actors, and to permit a broad horizontal discussion. The related processes will be safeguarded via the 2030 Dialogue on Sustainable Development, which covers consultations on the Confederation's sustainability policy, partnerships to implement the 2030 Agenda, and communication activities.

10.1.

CONSULTATIONS ON THE CONFEDERATION'S POLICY ON SUSTAINABILITY

Work to revise the Sustainable Development Strategy involved closer cooperation with the cantons, communes and institutional stakeholder groups from business, society, science and politics (see Section 1.2). They were included in the process of developing the strategy as part of a broad-based stakeholder dialogue – a process that will be consolidated as a consultation procedure in the 2030 Dialogue on Sustainable Development. This is intended to ensure that the outcomes of the stakeholder dialogue to date continue to provide input, and that the stakeholder groups are involved in an ongoing process within the Confederation's sustainable development policy cycle of monitoring, planning, implementation, evaluation and reporting.

Exactly what form this future consultation process will take is to be determined during the transitional phase (see Section 8.1.4). Key issues in this ongoing discussion might include defining future action areas in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, and the implementation and review of the Sustainable Development Strategy itself.

10.2.

PARTNERSHIPS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Switzerland has a long tradition of partnership between government and non-governmental actors. Where sectoral policy is concerned, policy-makers have been working alongside interested associations and non-governmental organisations – primarily from the environmental, development cooperation, business and social spheres – on a regular basis for many years. At the international level, the authorities involve these organisations in preparations for important negotiations. They have lent major impetus to sustainable development in Switzerland, most recently in the preparation of the Swiss position on the 2030 Agenda negotiations.

Implementing this universal agenda will be one of the particular challenges of the future. Here, the Sustainable Development Goals will be adapted to Switzerland's particular circumstances and put into effect in partnerships in all areas and at all levels. The implementation partnerships between the Confederation, cantons, communes and representatives of business, civil society and the scientific community should thus remain focused on the sectoral level. That said, these partnerships should also be further consolidated at the general level of national Swiss sustainability policy as part of the 2030 Dialogue on Sustainable Development. This will ensure a coordinated approach between the various areas, and enable broader partnerships – such as multi-stakeholder initiatives – to be established. How exactly the different actors can be involved in implementation, and how their contributions can be acknowledged, are among the issues that will have to be resolved.

10.3.

COMMUNICATIONS

A proactive information policy is key to the successful implementation of sustainable development at all levels of government and in society. In the context of the 2030 Dialogue on Sustainable Development, the Federal Council strives to achieve a perfectly balanced and cohesive blend of targeted communications activities.

It maintains an information portal to create transparency about the implementation of the Strategy and its measures. The portal also provides an overview of sustainability-related Confederation sectoral policies, as well as the most important international policy processes for sustainable development. In addition, the Confederation will regularly release information about major issues and activities in the field.



APPENDICES

11.1.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

10YFP: 10-Year Framework for Programmes on Consumption and Production

2030 Agenda: 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

AAAA: Addis Ababa Action Agenda

AHV: Alters- und Hinterlassenen-Versicherung – Swiss state old age and survivors' insurance (pension)

ARE: Federal Office for Spatial Development

BLO: Bau- und Liegenschaftsorgane de Bundes – federal construction and property management services

BREKO: Breitensportkonzept des Bundes – the Confederation's recreational sports concept)

CIP: Cantonal Integration Programme

CO₂: Carbon dioxide

CPC: Cleaner Production Centres

CSR: Corporate Social Responsibility

DDA: Disability Discrimination Act

DDPS: Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sports

DETEC: Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications

DPPE: Swiss Conference of Directors of Public Works, Planning and Environmental Protection

ECOSOC: UN Economic and Social Council

ERI: Education, research and innovation

ESD: Education for sustainable development

ESDW: European Sustainable Development Week

FAO: UN Food and Agriculture Organization

FDF: Federal Department of Finance

FDFA: Federal Department of Foreign Affairs

FGM: Female Genital Mutilation

FOEN: Federal Office for the Environment

FOPH: Federal Office of Public Health

FPC: Federal Procurement Conference

FSO: Swiss Federal Statistical Office

GCF: Green Climate Fund

GEF: Global Environment Facility

HLPF: UN High-Level Political Forum on sustainable development

HVF: Capacity-related Heavy Vehicle Fee

IC: International Cooperation

IIC: Inter-institutional cooperation

ILO: International Labour Organization

IMF: International Monetary Fund

IPB: Interessengemeinschaft privater professioneller Bauherren –an interest group consisting of private professional developers

ISDC: Interdepartmental Sustainable Development Committee

IV: Federal disability insurance

J+S: Jugend + Sport – the Confederation's Youth+Sport sports promotion programme

KBOB: Koordinationskonferenz der Bau- und Liegenschaftsorgane der öffentlichen Bauherren – coordination group for construction and property services

KEV: Kostendeckende Einspeisevergütung – Feed-in remuneration at cost

LCS: Swiss Landscape Concept

LEKO: Leistungssportkonzept des Bundes – the Confederation's competitive sports concept

MDG: UN Millennium Development Goals

MONET: Monitoring der Nachhaltigen Entwicklung – system of indicators which monitors sustainable development in Switzerland

NAF: Nationalstrassen- und Agglomerationsverkehrs-Fonds des Bundes – the Confederation's motorway and agglomeration transport fund

NCD: Non-Communicable Diseases

NCP: OECD National Contact Point

NIBA: Nachhaltigkeitsindikatoren für Bahninfrastrukturprojekte des Bundes – the system of sustainability indicators for the Confederation's rail infrastructure projects

NISTRA: Nachhaltigkeitsindikatoren für Strasseninfrastrukturprojekte des Bundes – the system of sustainability indicators for the Confederation's road infrastructure projects

NMM: New Management Model

NNBS: Netzwerk Nachhaltiges Bauen Schweiz – the sustainable construction network for Switzerland

NRP: New Regional Policy

OECD: Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development

PPA: Federal Public Procurement Act

PPNI: Programmes and Projects of National Importance (PPNI)

RAI Principles: Principles for Responsible Agricultural Investments

RIA: The Confederation's Regulatory Impact Assessment

RIF: Rail Infrastructure Fund

RUMBA: Ressourcen- und Umweltmanagement der Bundesverwaltung – resource and environmental management in the Federal Administration

SA: Sustainability Assessment by the Confederation and the cantons

SCBF: Swiss Capacity Building Facility

SCCER: Swiss Competence Centres for Energy Research

SDC: Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

SDG: Sustainable Development Goals

SGV: Schweizerischer Gemeindeverband – the Swiss association of local authorities

SHFP: Swiss Health Foreign Policy

SIFEM: Swiss Investment Fund for Emerging Markets

SSV: Schweizerischer Städteverband – the association of Swiss cities

TAC: Tripartite Agglomeration Conference

UN: United Nations

UN DRC: UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

UNECE: United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

UNEP: United Nations Environment Programme

UNESCO: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

VOC: Volatile Organic Compounds

WBS: Wohnungs-Bewertungs-System – the Confederation's housing evaluation system

WHO: World Health Organization

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This Sustainable Development Strategy 2016–19 sets out the Federal Council's policy priorities for sustainable development in the medium to long term. It also lists the action that the Confederation will take to implement this Strategy during the legislative period. In addition, the Strategy indicates the contribution that Switzerland will make to achieving the United Nations' global Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development ('2030 Agenda') during this period.

► www.are.admin.ch/sustainabledevelopment

